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College and School News

The second semester registration February 5, 1944 at SHAW UNIVERSITY showed 466 students enrolled, a 42% increase over the enrollment of the second semester of the school year 1942-43, and largest for a corresponding period in the history of the institution.

Better Race Relations week was observed at the FAYETTEVILLE STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE February 7-11 inclusive with the general theme "Better Race Relations For A Better City, A Better State and A Better Nation." Principal speaker was N. C. Newbold, director of the division of cooperation in education and race relations of the State of North Carolina.

The annual mid-winter Ministers' Institute was held from February 7 to February 12 at ST. AUGUSTINE'S COLLEGE with 100 ministers from 41 cities and 4 states in attendance. The guest consultant for the institute was Dr. Miles Mark Fisher, pastor of the White Rock Baptist Church, Durham, N. C.

THE STORER COLLEGE library has recently received 56 valuable books of fiction and life in New England from trustee, Mrs. Howard S. Palmer.

Dean Leroy D. Johnson has an article in the "Journal of Chemical Education" entitled "Simple Apparatus For Carbon and Hydrogen Detection."

More than 47 students from different islands of the Caribbean Sea, from Central Africa and from 20 states in the Union enrolled for courses in the department of social sciences of FISK UNIVERSITY to begin a new semester of study and preparation to face post-war problems in their prospective countries, it was revealed by Mrs. Minerva H. Johnson, administrative assistant of the department.

Mrs. Mary Jackson McCrory, the wife of president McCrory of JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY, and Miss Eva Matthews, the university nurse, lost their lives in a fire at the university on January 13.

The chemistry department is working on a government war research project under the office of production research and development dealing with the utilization of waste

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The annual Workers' Conference, the largest gathering of Negro Presbyterians in the country, was held on the campus on March 28.

Miss Thora Kelly, junior student at BENNETT COLLEGE, was elected a district vice-president of the North Carolina Methodist Conference which recently convened in High Point, N. C. This is the first occasion on which Negro students have attended the conference and the first time that a Negro has been elected to office. Miss Kelly is a Philadelphian, an accomplished pianist, and has completed a graduate course of study at the Philadelphia Music Academy.

The U. S. Veterans Rehabilitation training has been started at the WEST VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE with the arrival of 2 students honorably discharged from the military service.

The Third Army-Navy college qualifying test for the ASTP and the Navy V-12 program was administered at Hampton Institute on March 15.

B. D. Shumate of Philadelphia, for the past year and a half an instructor in machine shop practice and theory at HAMPTON INSTITUTE, has been released to set up a machine work department at Arkansas A. and M. college where he will serve as head of the department. He is a native of Warrenton, Virginia, and a graduate of Hampton. He has also attended the Detroit School of Trades and studied electrical engineering at Ohio State University. He was formerly employed at Pittsburgh as a foreman at the Casey Construction Company and structural steel worker at the Pittsburgh Foundation Company.

Mrs. Gladys S. Reid of Atlanta, Ga., has been appointed director of Food Service and will supervise a corps of about 150 workers engaged in feeding 2,000 students and service men.

Seventy-four young men and women are included on the first and second honor rolls for the first semester of the current academic year.

The newly opened division of nurse education has been approved for participation in the U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps under the Boulton plan according to Miss M. Elizabeth Lancaster, acting director of the division.

DELAWARE STATE COLLEGE held its Farm and Home Conference on March 11. The theme was "Effective Farm Living For the Present and Future."

The Boards of Curators of LINCOLN UNIVERSITY (Mo.) and the University of Missouri have worked out a cooperative agree-

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ment and contract designed to care for the present emergency involving closing of the latter's school of journalism. The University of Missouri staff will offer instruction in journalism in Lincoln University with courses under the administrative direction of the extension division.

Miss Gladys Holloway, January graduate, was elected to Epsilon Beta Kappa Psi, honorary scientific society which was founded at Lincoln University (Pa.) in 1923, at its last meeting.

An exhibit of oils, drawings and lithographs by Professor James G. Parks, art instructor, began at the People's Art Center in St. Louis, Mo., recently and will continue for several weeks.

MOREHOUSE COLLEGE has raised $83,300 toward endowment and current expenses according to Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, president. The university is now in its 78th year.

ATLANTA UNIVERSITY and the National Urban League are about to undertake a study of Negro business and business education in Negro colleges in a selected number of southern and border cities.

For original works of art in painting, sculpture and prints, Atlanta University is offering $1,400 in purchase awards to be presented at the 3rd annual exhibition of work by Negro artists on March 25. The awards range from $300 to $10, and will be made from original works by contemporary Negro artists.

When VOORHEES N. AND I. SCHOOL received "B" rating from the Southern Association in December, 1943, it was for the Junior college department since the high school was rated by the Southern Association in 1933. Therefore, at the present time both high school and Junior college departments have Southern Association ratings.

The 18th annual session of the National Association of Deans and Registrars in Negro schools was held at WINSTON-SALEM STATE TEACHERS COLLEGE on March 30 and 31, 1944.

The theme of the meeting was "Evaluating the Quality of Educational Progress in Colleges for Negroes, etc." Outstanding experts in advance fields appeared on the program.

Conscientious Objector Jailed

Bayard Rustin, co-secretary of the Race Relations department of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and a leader in non-violent direct action against jim crowism, has begun a three-year federal prison term as a result of his refusal to obey the selective service act.

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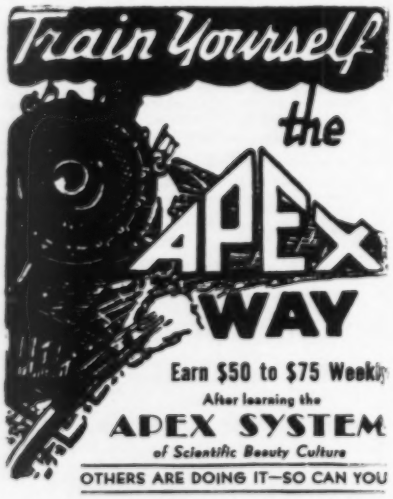

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USA Launches Housing Program

The Union of South Africa has launched an extensive war housing program designed to benefit both African natives and Europeans and to wipe out some of the worst slums in the world, the South African Bureau of Information has told the OWI. According to the Bureau, the Union plans to erect 20,000 dwellings for Africans, Eurafricans, and Europeans under a new government-sponsored war housing program begun in 1937 and continued through 1943.

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THE CRISIS

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A Record of the Darker Races

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WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED WITH THIS COPY SEND IT TO A BOY IN CAMP

COVER

Negro navigation cadet William M. Heyward takes an aerial sextant shot through the turret of his training ship at Hondo Army Air Field, Hondo, Texas.

TYPOGRAPHIC NOTE

Because of paper and other shortages, WPB has asked the cooperation of publishers in the saving of materials. Cooperating with WPB, *The Crisis* begins with this issue the use of 8-point old style on a 10-point slug. The type is legible and very economical since it permits us to get in about 30 percent more words without additional paper.

NEXT MONTH

The May issue will carry a special section on the Philadelphia branch. Theophilus Lewis promises a penetrating review of Lillian Smith's literary bombshell, *Strange Fruit*; and Saville R. Davis, assistant managing editor of the *Christian Science Monitor*, is going to have an article titled, "The Task for the Future."

OUR CONTRIBUTORS

Kenneth L. Bright, a New York businessman, was an intimate friend of the late "Fats" Waller. His collaborator Inez Cavanaugh is a free lance writer and lives in New York. Frank Marshall Davis is executive editor of the Associated Negro Press and author of two volumes of verse, *Black Man's Verse* and *I Am the American Negro*. Morton Fineman lives in Philadelphia, Pa. Dr. Edward Franklin Frazier, one of America's outstanding sociologists and an authority on the American Negro family, is head of the Department of Sociology at Howard University, Washington, D. C. Viktor Lowenfeld is head of the Art Department at Hampton Institute, Va.

Editorials

Two Strikes on Dewey

EVEN though he has not made any declaration and has not embarked on any speaking tours, it is no secret that Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York would like to be President of the United States. In fact, to a greater extent than the general public suspects, every move in Albany is calculated carefully with an eye to the coming conventions and the fall election. Outwardly the governor appears to be indifferent; within his councils there is shrewd activity.

But on one item the Dewey camp has exhibited little shrewdness, less understanding. Everyone in politics knows that, among other things, the man elected to the White House next November must have a goodly share of the Negro vote. This is not merely the judgment of THE CRISIS. In his *Saturday Evening Post* article, "Will the Republicans Reelect Roosevelt?" Stanley High recognizes the power of the Negro vote. Frank Kent, veteran political columnist, has referred to the Negro vote time and again. From the bottom of Dixie, for reasons of its own, the Charlestown, S. C., *News and Courier* continues to harp on the value of northern Negro votes to the winner.

The Dewey advisers apparently do not recognize this fact, or they minimize it. For to date, Governor Dewey, to use good baseball language, has two strikes against him in the minds of thinking Negro voters.

In the soldier vote bill fight Mr. Dewey lined up with the unspeakable John E. Rankin of Mississippi, and Rankin's colleague in the Senate, James O. Eastland. These men were for a "states' rights" soldier vote bill. Rankin frankly stated that it was needed to keep Negroes from voting. Eastland gave an interview carried by the Associated Press in which he declared "white supremacy" to be the main issue in the soldier vote fight.

After all this mess had come out Dewey issued his first statement favoring a "states' rights" soldier vote bill. Dewey did not take the trouble to dissociate himself from Rankin. In the minds of Negroes he joined Rankin. Anyone who joins Rankin cannot have the Negro vote.

Strike two was even worse than strike one. Dewey, in an awkward gesture which deceived no one, refused to back up a bill recommended by a committee on race discrimination appointed by him last August. The committee recommended a state Fair Employment Act. Instead of pushing it through the state legislature which he controlled absolutely, Dewey side-stepped it and recommended a new commission of 23 persons to study the race problem and make a report at the next legislature!

Dewey has been telling everyone that he is attending to New York state matters only. This was strictly a New York state matter. With fine words and phrases last August he named his committee and told it that discrimination must stop. He encouraged it to draw up its bill. The committee thought the least New York state could do for its citizens was to pass a law which would give every man, regardless of race, religion or color, a fair chance at a job.

But Governor Dewey evidently thinks otherwise. The charge has been made by the newspaper *PM* that Dewey felt that if he backed a state fair employment act in New York he would lose some of the southern white delegate votes in Chicago. We do not know whether this is true or not. If it is, we think Dewey has made the wrong choice.

This magazine, knowing something of the ways of politics, does not assert that *all* Negro votes will go for or against any candidate. The party organizations always hold in control a certain number of votes. But we do say that more Negroes than ever before are aroused over (a) the treatment of their men and women in the armed services and (b) the chance to get and hold a job on merit.

When the job issue came up in his own state, in his own legislature, Governor Dewey missed the ball.

Real Test for FEPC

THE real test for the President's Committee on Fair Employment Practice will come in the next few weeks when Congress will vote on an independent, separate budget of $585,000 for the agency. This is the first time FEPC has asked approval of its own budget and submitted its own work to Congress to be judged upon its merits.

Everyone knows FEPC has many enemies in and out of Congress. The powerful railroad lobby has been bringing pressure to have it killed. The Smith committee has smeared it. Senator Russell of Georgia fathered an amendment to an appropriations bill which he announced frankly as an attempt to "wipe out the Fair Employment Practice Committee."

These people think there is something wrong in having a government agency try to guarantee citizens a fair chance at a job, without discrimination on account of race, creed, color, or national origin. The people who believe otherwise must make themselves heard. They must write, first of all, to their Congressmen and tell them to vote for FEPC and its budget. Then they must write to their Senators.

Buy and *Hold* War Bonds

The best way to help America in the war, the best way to back up our boys on the battlefronts of the world is to buy War bonds. The best investment in Freedom and the future is War bonds. Not only buy them, but *hold* them.

Army Labor Battalions

IN the most revealing official statement to date on the Negro policy of the War Department, Secretary Henry L. Stimson has confessed in a letter to Rep. Hamilton Fish, Jr., that Negro combat units which have been trained so painstakingly in the past two years are being converted into service troops.

Mr. Stimson, in what is probably the most inept letter of the war, then goes on to charge that Negroes, because of low educational standards, have not been able to master modern weapons of war. This charge has been flatly denied by a major in the former 184th field artillery regiment, made up largely of Chicago Negroes. The statement has infuriated Negro Americans as has no other single incident since Pearl Harbor.

It was well known that the famous 24th infantry regiment, a Regular army unit, had been in the South Pacific for twenty-one months doing stevedore work. The storm of indignation on the Stimson statement caused someone to act, and in a few days "patrol action" by a small detachment of the 24th against the Japs on Bougainville was widely reported in the daily press. This was recognized as a gesture.

Now comes the persistent report that the famous Negro cavalry regiments, the Ninth and Tenth, have been broken up into service troops. These units have as distinguished records as any Regular army outfit. Since 1866 they have been in existence, fighting wherever called upon to do so—except in World War I when they were not permitted to fight.

Have these proud fighters been turned into work battalions? The nation is currently debating calling 4F men and men over 38 into army work battalions "to free combat units to fight." If combat units are so badly needed, why are Negro units being broken up into service troops? The Negro has suffered many humiliations in this war, but he has pressed on, determined to fight for his country, the only one he knows and loves in all the world. But he will never recover from the insult of Secretary Stimson, or the grinding into the dust of the fighting hearts of the men of the 24th, the 9th, and the 10th. He will echo the cry, "Remember Pearl Harbor," but he himself will cry aloud, "Remember the 10th Cavalry."

Race: An American Dilemma

By E. Franklin Frazier

IT IS a fortunate coincidence that this book[1] appears at a time when the American Negro is facing the greatest crisis in his history. This work is not only the most comprehensive and scholarly analysis of the condition and status of the Negro ever undertaken, but it also provides on the basis of scientific knowledge an unanswerable argument for the complete integration of the Negro into American life. In the latter respect the Myrdal study differs radically from the so-called "objective" studies of the Negro in which authors have studiously avoided "passing judgments" on the treatment of the Negro or even interpreting their findings in terms of a social policy for a democracy. Therefore, it is necessary to dwell a moment on the viewpoint of the present study before reviewing its contents and conclusions.

The viewpoint of the present work is presented in the introductory chapter and in three appendices containing the methodological standpoint of the entire work. In the introductory chapter the author makes clear that the Negro problem, as all social problems, is essentially a moral problem and that since the Negro problem cannot be scientifically explained "in terms of the peculiarities of the Negroes themselves," it is a white man's problem. While the discussions in the appendices on methodolgy are mainly theoretical and will appeal chiefly to scholars, they have very important implications for future studies of the Negro problem if they are to have any practical value. For example, the author takes the position that studies of man should make explicit the value premises upon which they are based. He points out that so-called objective studies of the Negro problem have contained hidden valuations and biases. Therefore, the author makes explicit the value premises underlying his study: namely, the American Creed of equality and Christian ethics. Moreover, he boldly assumes at the start that since there are no *scientific data* which would justify treating the Negro differently from white Americans, there is no justification for violating the American Creed and Christian ethics in the treatment of the Negro. There is a critique of the concept "mores" which we cannot consider here. However, at least it might be pointed out that the author shows how this sociological concept is not only an over-simplification of moral conduct in our society but has been used indiscriminately to make

[1] *An American Dilemma. The Negro Problem and Modern Democracy.* By Gunnar Myrdal. 2 Vols. New York: Harper and Brothers, 1944. lv+1483. $7.50.

The Negro has always argued that America cannot save her soul until she solves the dilemma of racial caste, and now a famous Swedish sociologist underscores the truth with the findings of science. The significance of Dr. Myrdal's conclusions are explained in this article-review by a famous American scholar

it appear that practices in regard to the Negro have a sacrosanct character and cannot be changed. Such a point of view, as he points out, contains a certain fatalism in regard to the problem.

Work in Ten Parts

The entire work is divided into ten parts. The first part, consisting of three chapters, defines the Negro problem with reference to the cultural traditions represented in American life; shows its importance in the minds of whites and Negroes; and outlines the various facets of the problem. The second part, which deals with the problem of race, covers such subjects as race beliefs, the racial ancestry and the racial characteristics of the Negro; and the growth and distribution of the Negro population. In the eleven chapters comprising the fourth part, there is presented the most comprehensive and at the same time the most fundamental discussion of the economic position of the Negro in American life that one may find outside of Richard Sterner's *The Negro's Share* which was a part of this same study. In the fifth part, containing four chapters, Dr. Myrdal presents an incisive analysis of the role of the Negro in American politics—politics as an expression of conflicting social and economic forces in American life, especially in the South. The sixth part contains the most frank and realistic description and analysis of the law and the operation of the courts and extra-legal agencies in respect to the Negro that has been written. Part seven, which is significantly called *Social Inequality*, comes to grips with the heart of the Negro problem in American life. In the two chapters in this section of the study, the author plays the role of the *enfant terrible* among both white and Negro students of the problem who have concealed the real problem with sociological jargon and evasion of the issues involved. In the eighth part the author turns his attention to the question of caste and class and the class structure of the Negro community. The analysis of social phenomena within the Negro community is continued in the ninth part which is devoted to the question of leadership and concerted action among Negroes. However, he does not fail to analyze these phenomena in relation to economic and social forces in American life; the first of the ten chapters in this section being concerned with the *American Pattern of Individual Leadership and Mass Passivity*. In this section he not only analyzes Negro leadership but he deals with organizations devoted to the improvement of the Negro as well as with the church, the school and the press. In the tenth part there are two chapters; one dealing with the role of Negro institutions in race relations and another with non-institutional aspects of the Negro community or "peculiarities" of Negro culture.

The chapter constituting the final section presents the American dilemma: America cannot keep her traditional racial prejudices which have no foundation in scientific knowledge and continue as a democratic country. According to the author America is free to choose whether the Negro problem, which has been her greatest failure, will become the greatest opportunity to demonstrate that justice, equality and cooperation are possible between white and colored people. In addition to the text, which I have just outlined, there are ten appendices containing discussions on the methods and preconceptions of social science; valuable information on the present condition of the Negro; and suggestions for future research.

Touches Every Phase

Let us turn our attention to a more detailed and critical analysis of the special contributions of these volumes to the understanding of the Negro problem. The first of these special contributions is the wealth of fundamental information on the Negro problem contained in these volumes. There is scarcely any phase of the problem that is untouched in this study. Not only were the existing literature and sources of data on the Negro studied and analyzed but the author had special studies undertaken in order to answer the questions which his study posed. In order to collect such a wealth of information, it was necessary, of course, for him to enlist the services of a large group of scholars who had special competence for the task. I do not mean that his co-workers included only students of the Negro problem. Dr. Myrdal

was wise in choosing men who had special competence to undertake the problems which he wanted to study. Such a procedure differed from that of some persons who in studying various phases of the Negro problem have chosen people not because of their competence but simply because they were accustomed to making "colored studies." Moreover, in selecting his co-workers, Dr. Myrdal indicated that he took the Negro problem seriously. This leads us to another aspect of the study which has also lent unique value to the sutdy.

Author's Objectivity Rare

In a very real and significant meaning of the term "objective," the author has endowed his work with a type of objectivity that is rarely found in studies of the Negro. Therefore, the words of the late Dr. Keppel in the *Foreword* to the study that the Carnegie Corporation sought "someone who could approach his task with a fresh mind, uninfluenced by traditional attitudes or by earlier conclusions" and who was from a country with "high intellectual and scholarly standards but with no background or traditions of imperialism," have more than a formal meaning for the character of the study. Dr. Myrdal, who is a distinguished social scientist with an international reputation, approached his task not only in a scientific spirit but free from the provincialism which has characterized thinking on the Negro problem in America. Lest anyone think that the author's objectivity was limited to a lack of traditional and emotional bias, let me hasten to add that during the five years he was engaged on the study, Dr. Myrdal acquired firsthand knowledge of the American scene and came to know Negroes intimately. That is why people who have read his volumes have commented upon the fact that he acquired a "feel" of the racial situation. Therefore, what he read in books and analyzed in statistics could be translated into the actions of concrete personalities.

Another outstanding characteristic of this study is its freedom from sentimentality and pathos in regard to the Negro. In other words, the author was not only objective in regard to the white man's behavior and attitudes toward the Negro but he was equally objective in regard to the Negro. This was due to the fact that he regarded the Negro as a human being, subject to the weaknesses as well as the virtues of other human beings. And it might be added that it was because of his freedom from racial bias that Dr. Myrdal was able to understand the character of the individual Negroes. It is notorious that after three hundred years the evaluations which most white Americans make of the intellectual achievements and moral character of American Negroes are worthless. But Dr. Myrdal was able to see that whereas Negroes have been denied rights and often persecuted, in many instances they have also been the recipients of indiscriminate philanthropy and have often been coddled. He recognized too that the racial stiuation in the United States had affected the attitudes and thinking of Negroes concerning their problems and the world in general.

Negro Community Anomalous

An example or two will illustrate the author's freedom from the sentimentality and pathos which are indicative of the inability of most white Americans to regard the Negro simply as a human being. Dr. Myrdal recognized the Negro community for what it was—a pathological phenomenon in American life. He saw that it meant the exclusion of the Negro from normal participation in the social and economic life of the nation and consequently the exclusion of the Negro from competition on the basis of his ability. He recognized clearly that segregation kept the Negro in poverty and ignorance. Therefore, unlike many white Americans, he did not indulge in a lot of foolish talk about the peculiar "contributions" of the Negro and his deep "spirituality." Moreover, he recognized that segregation set up double standards for judging the behavior and achievements of the Negro. It is not surprising then that he did not indulge in overrating the achievements of the Negroes and the ability and character of his leaders. In fact, he saw that the evil of segregation handicapped the Negro intellectually and had a bad effect upon his character. He saw that "Uncle Toms" were not the "wise statesmen" as they have been described. He was able to recognize courage and honesty in Negroes who were condemned to frustration and ineffectiveness by the caste system. He could see too how the inability to participate in American society at large was responsible for the instability of opinion among Negroes and their rivalries. The same frankness and honesty are found in his discussion of issues which constitute the core of the race problem.

Social Equality

Let us consider first his treatment of the question of social equality. This is a question which both white and Negro writers, with few exceptions, have refused to face honestly. In the South both Negro and white leaders have either tacitly or openly agreed that it is a tabooed subject even among social scientists. But for Dr. Myrdal, who can distinguish his role as social scientist from that of a politician, there is no tabooed subject in race relations. Therefore, he states frankly that the "social" cannot be *separated from other spheres of life* and that "social" discrimination is a powerful means of keeping the Negro down in other spheres of human relationships. Moreover, he does not fail to point out that despite the lip service which even *responsible* Negro leaders have paid to the creed of "no social equality," they never gave up the demand for ultimate full equality. Social segreation, as he correctly sees, is forced upon Negroes and is supported by beliefs concerning the inferiority of the Negro. Instead of following the pattern of thought indulged in by most Negro leaders and both white and Negro pseudo-social scientists, he states frankly that the theory of "no social equality" is supported by fear of amalgamation which is based upon a *magical* concept of "blood." His frank position, which is based upon science, provides a marked contrast to the evasions and double talk of many Negro and white leaders who have expressed themselves, for example, on the Red Cross blood bank. Moreover, Dr. Myrdal recognizes the relation between the theory of social inequality and the injustices which the Negro suffers in the South. He sees that a system of caste and democratic justice under the law are not only incompatible but impossible. Of course, this will not be news to honest and intelligent whites and Negroes who have studied the Negro problem. But it is so opposed to what is usually published as the results of the reflections of so-called white and Negro social scientists that it must be emphasized here. All sorts of rationalizations have been used to "explain" why the Negro does not get justice in the South. For example, one liberal southerner once explained it on the ground that it was due to the Negro's poverty and the fact that his testimony could not be trusted in courts of law. The author of this book goes to the heart of the problem and shows that it is impossible for the Negro to receive justice as long as there is a caste system supported by the notions that the Negro is different from white people.

Significance to Negro

In addition to the contribution which this book makes to the thinking of Americans generally on the Negro problem it has special significance for the Negro himself. I have already indicated that many Negro leaders and students of the problem have been guilty of the same confusion in thinking and evasions and, I might add, dishonesty, which have often characterized the thinking of white writers. The Negro's thinking on the Negro problem has been influenced by his caste position and social isolation and, since he is so thoroughly acculturated, current American opinions. The Negro has often repeated opinions that have justified not only his subordination but even his racial inferiority. Although sometimes he had done this because he has been dishonest, more often he has done so because of his ignorance and mental isolation. In this book the dishonest will find their dishonesty exposed and the ignorant and mentally isolated will find enlightenment. The reading of this book should certainly clarify the thinking of Negro leaders who are aware of the present upsurge of the masses. As the author states in no uncertain terms, changes in American society have made "counting on the best white folks"

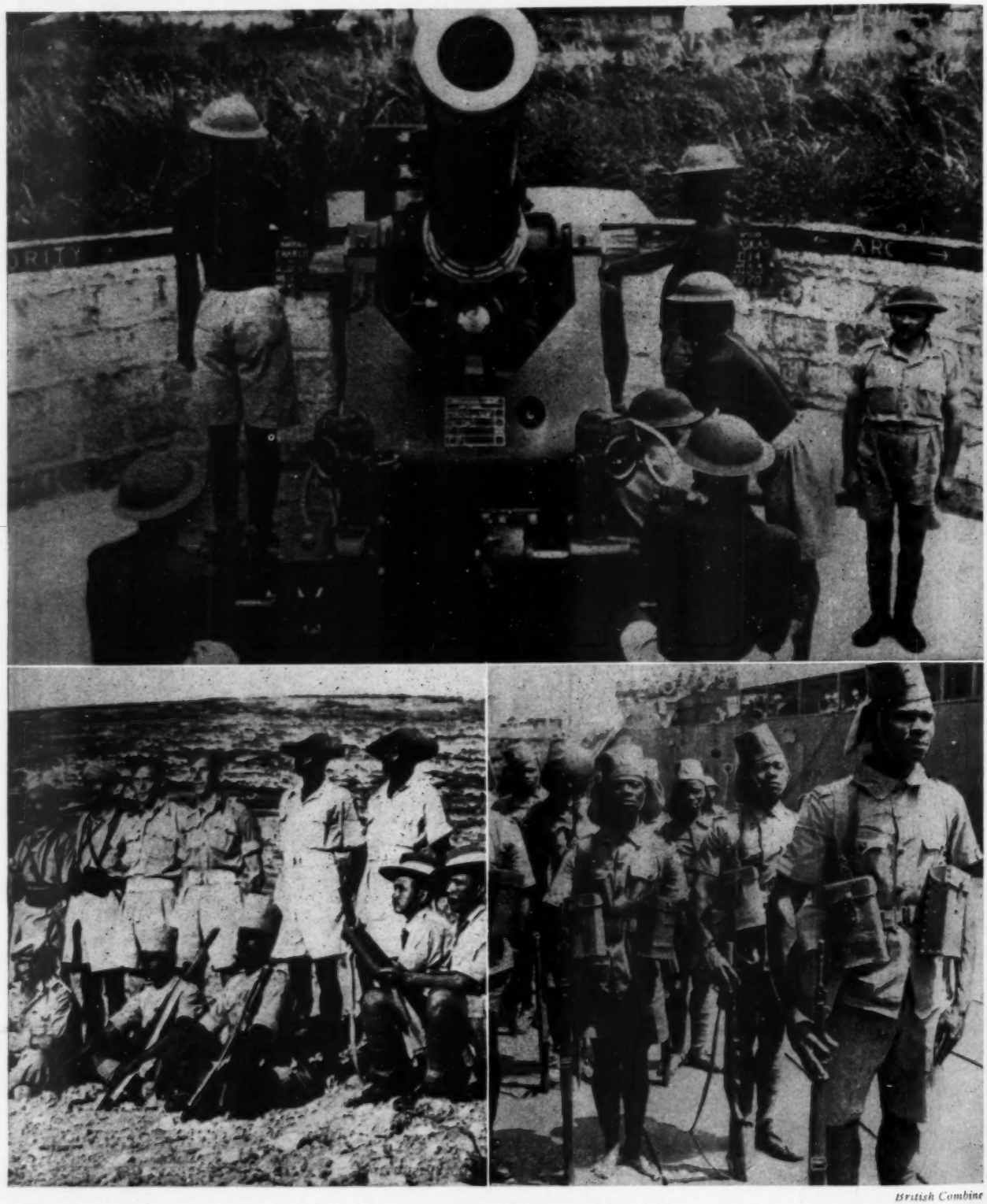
(*Continued on page* 124)

OUR NURSES IN AUSTRALIA

Acme Photos by Frank Prist, Jr.

Above leaning on the porch rail waiting for their turn at morning exercises are (L to R): 2nd Lts. Joan L. Hamilton, Kansas City, Mo.; Geneva H. Culpepper, Wadley, Ala.; Marjorie S. Mayers, New York City; Prudence L. Burnes, Mounds, Ill.; and Inez E. Holmes, Norfolk, Va. Below 2nd Lt. Elena A. Townsend (Left), Glen Cove, N. Y., and 2nd Lt. Inez E. Holmes (Right), Norfolk, Va., stop for a moment in a bicycle tour of the camp to chat with 2nd Lt. Beulah L. Baldwin, Cleveland, Ohio. These nurses are part of a contingent of Negro nurses arrived in Australia for training before they are assigned to hospitals in advanced sectors of the Southwest Pacific.

AFRICAN SOLDIERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS



British Combine

Above are East African gunners manning a heavy anti-aircraft defense gun. Lower left shows a group of the various types of soldiers representing the different nationalities engaged in maneuvers: Libanese, British, East African, Gurkhas. On the right are soldiers of the Belgian Colonial Infantry forming up on the quayside of a port in British West Africa. These men from the Congo are wearing British equipment but are armed with Belgian rifles. Their headgear is a red fez with neck-cloth attached.

"That Harmful Little Armful"

Fats Waller In His Formative Years

By Kenneth Bright and Inez Cavanaugh

WITH a heart full of mirth to match his girth, the late Thomas "Fats" Waller "could walk with kings nor lose the common touch." His approach to life with tongue in cheek—and more often than not—sticking straight out into the face of the world expresses more aptly than volumes of aphorisms, the consistent levity with which he viewed the business of living.

It is no wonder that such a man was loved by all who came within his vibration. The slightest brush with this dynamic personality sufficed to insure another idolater of "Fats" Waller, the man, musician, the buffoon, the lover of all men.

His openness of mind, heart and pocketbook in the early stages of his career came close to being disastrous, as he gave joyfully of himself and his money. With never a hint of charity in his giving, "Fats" was always happy to lend a friend a helping hand.

The task of putting into cold words a measure of this great artist's personality is indeed prodigious. In order to appreciate and understand the late "Fats" Waller, one might take one of two courses; namely, the academic, or the wordly approach to his personality and his music in relation to his environment. In choosing the latter, we come closer to approximating the lusty character of the man in its formative stages.

"Fats" Waller's first contact with his public came during his grammar school days at Harlem's Public School 89. Playing marches for assembly, Waller showed the first signs of his incorrigibility and that irrepressible urge to express himself. One day, as he was playing a school march, he came to a break in the music and couldn't resist giving it the "Waller" treatment. The effect electrified the marching boys, who immediately lapsed into a sort of Suzy-Q—a shuffling, rhythmic movement of the feet. When the teacher in charge, Miss Hempstreet, regained her composure, she ordered "Fats" to stop playing and remonstrated: "Thomas Waller, please play the music as it is written and add *nothing* to the composition!"

"Fats" greeted this admonition with what appeared to be a smug look of polite, schoolboyish docility in deference to the teacher's presence—but the marching boys detected the subtlety of the waggishness behind that quietly spoken "Yes'm!"—and squirmed with

How an artist got that way always intrigues the public. In what ways did the genius of Thomas Wright (Fats) Waller first manifest itself? His flair for musical improvisation started early as his intimate personal friends point out in this breezily interesting sketch of "Fats" formative years

Amsterdam News

Thomas Wright ("Fats") Waller, who died at the age of 39 aboard the Santa Fe Chief eastbound from California last December, achieved fame and success as organist, pianist, and composer. He wrote the music for "Early to Bed," the musical now playing at the Broadhurst, New York City.

delight. Thus the contact was made with his first public which was to grow up with him and follow him faithfully through the years.

Origin of Wallerisms

Henceforth, every musical program at P. S. 89 was dominated by the Wallerisms which were to make musical history. Performing at these affairs, Fats played classical selections with a technique far beyond his years. Invariably, he enlivened the proceedings with a little "business" of his own. At this ungainly age, his roly-poly figure, moving across the platform on his shorty, bandy legs, his chubby little cherubic face shining like a polished apple, would be the signal for alertness on the part of the boys assembled. Turning his head toward the audience, out of the teacher's range, "Fats" would throw the group into paroxysms of laughter with the facial contortions which were to become an international trade-mark. Attendance at the classical sessions were no longer an obligation but a "must" when Waller invaded P. S. 89. No one wanted to miss the Waller antics. Here we see the development of his inimitable stage presence, or rather domination. Here he was learning to feel at home and take charge of an audience.

The old Crescent Theatre on 135th Street, between Lenox and Fifth Avenue, was the Saturday afternoon hang-out for the neighborhood kids, who attended en masse to view the "Perils of Pauline." However, the *pièce de résistance* was the musical accompaniment to this serial. During the unreeling of the hair-raising, breath-taking, death-defying escapades of Pearl White, the young lady pianist would lapse into phrases of an original composition, "The Perils of Pauline," in which she was joined by the audience singing and shouting in tempo. This was the high point of the afternoon. But there were those who thought "Fats" could do it better. The P. S. 89'ers began to talk up the idea, and before long the astute manager of the Crescent decided to give it a try—the fact that "Fats" had the solid support of P. S. 89 did the trick.

The weather man was in a bad mood the day of Fats' opening. He huffed and he puffed and he blew . . . but not hard enough to keep the Waller fans away. They showed up in spite of the blizzardy weather and packed the theatre to the doors. Fats was in fine fettle. He breezed his way through the other features and pounced upon "Poor Pauline" the minute she hit the screen. Slumping figures suddenly came erect and all eyes were focused on Fats. Tension was high . . . Fats was ready for them. The magic of the Waller touch was met head on by a spontaneous, ear-splitting vocal outburst the moment he played the theme. Extemporaneous verses were sung and shouted around the scene being enacted on the screen, something in the manner of:

Poor Pauline, poor Pauline,
Poor Pauline went out to sea
And set all of the captives free,
Poor Pauline, poor Pauline.

Warmed Up Audience

This was the warming-up process for the feature attraction. Here was audience participation at its greatest peak. During intermission, when the local merchants' ads were flashed on the screen with the popular tunes of the day, which were lustily sung by the audience, "Fats" really "got off."

In those days, about 1916, the "Monkey Rag" and "All Night Long" were top tunes (locally) and the audience delighted in chanting the lyrics which went something like this:

Monkey rag, monkey rag,
When the monkeys do that monkey drag . . .

This ditty was ostensibly written around a current dance which emulated the gyrations of a monkey.

"All Night Long" was the big favorite as it afforded an opportunity for improvising suggestive parodies on the local scene:

The yalla gal rides in an automobile,
Brown-skin gal the same.
But the old black gal rides a pushmobile,
But she ridin' just the same!

"Fats" took charge of this interlude by stimulating the audience to even greater excitement with his flashes of musical impishness, which served to unleash their emotional outbursts and rocked the Crescent Theatre to its foundations.

Just up the street the old Lincoln Theatre, rival to the Crescent, was doing a face-lifting job and had installed an organ, which at that time was becoming a popular fixture in movie houses.

During this time, between his school-work, playing at the Lincoln, and getting around with the 89'ers, "Fats" found time to get in a few licks on the organ. With a deep Wallerish belly-laugh he shrugged off the merciless ribbing of the gang who constantly taunted him for playing the organ at what they called the "Subway Baptist Church," an humble store-front on 134th Street near Fifth Avenue. They use to kid him about getting "happy" in church and falling off the bench at the organ. The truth was his legs were too short to reach the pedals and his top-heavy frame gave able assistance at toppling him off the seat as he stretched for the pedals.

However, the "Subway Baptist Church" organ paved the way for his first billing as a feature attraction at the New Lincoln Theatre, where he was engaged to play the new pipe organ. "Fats" was in seventh heaven. Little did he know that some day his humble "Subway Baptist Church" organ training would earn for him one of the greatest musical distinctions of his life! One of the happiest moments of his life, which by his own design was one of high and joyous living, came during a visit to Paris, when he was invited to play the great organ at the Cathedral of Notre Dame—the only jazz pianist ever to be so honored.

Respected Classics

Contrary to the consensus of contemporary historians, Fats did NOT swing the classics. It must be remembered that his audience was composed chiefly of the 89'ers who had been musically enriched by his interpretations of the classics at public school. Despite the fact that they flocked to the Lincoln to hear him "rag" the organ, his classical touch and refinement, always present in his right hand, was not lost on his listeners. Their acceptance of his classical renditions were serious and appreciative.

Attention was focused on his ability as a composer when he set to music a bawdy folk-ditty, "The Boy in the Boat," which electrified the community and gained popularity among piano players equal to that sterling evergreen of James P. Johnson's "Carolina Shout." Later, Fats "cut" this tune for QRS music rolls under the title of "Squeeze Me."

Just about this time, Luckyeth "Lucky" Roberts, a flashy rag-time piano man, was playing down at Barron's cabaret on 134th Street and Seventh Avenue. Lucky created a new style of piano with "walking bass" (counter-melody) and a very fast right hand with plenty of "English" (showmanship). James P. Johnson, then an obscure parlor social man, was so intrigued by the agile fingering of Lucky Roberts that he sought to emulate his style. James P. was the first to introduce this style of playing at parlor socials and it took on the name of "parlor social time."

Parlor socials, which was the original name of this type of entertainment indigenous to Harlem, paraded under various cognomens of "Saturday Night Funkshun" (Function) or "House Rent Party."

"Carolina Shout," which James P. Johnson had originally composed for parlor socials, was finally recorded on QRS piano rolls around 1918, and soon set the pace for pianists, including "Fats" Waller, who, at that time, was rated with the famous parlor social men of the time—Lippy, "The Beetle," Willie ("The Lion") Smith, the late Ginger Young, Jack "the Bear," and Brooksy.

Fats was a leading protagonist of this rich idiom and never deserted his earlier influences in his compositions of succeeding years. To cite a few examples: "Valentine Stomp," "Sweet Savannah Sue," and "Rhythm Man."

Gets Name on Marquee

In recognition of his popularity at the Lincoln, the Lafayette Theatre beckoned. Here, Fats had his name in lights for the first time, and this new and larger theatre offered him a new field. The loyal 89'ers and the new Lincoln converts followed him to the Lafayette and precipitated the decline of the old landmark.

At the Lafayette, "Fats" came into his own as a headline attraction. Here he met the vaudeville stars, Ralph Cooper and Eddie Rector, with whom he later collaborated. Incidentally, most of the collaborating was done at Blackie's, a speakeasy adjacent to the Lafayette Theatre. No one will ever know just how many "top and bottoms" (blackberry wine and gin) were consumed before their first show, "Tan Town Topics," emerged—ready for staging.

This was the first musical for which "Fats" wrote the entire musical score, and the hit tune which swept the country via piano rolls and the Okeh recording was "Senorita Mine."

Here we find the beginning of the end of the Harlem era in "Fats'" career. The era which contributed so much to the creative and social outlook of the man who was destined to become an internationally renowned composer, musician and showman.

We have chosen this phase of Fats Waller's life because we believe it to be the most vital and influential part of his entire career and also to prove that he had, indeed, "the common touch." Despite his international fame, his roots were always firmly embedded in the traditions of Harlem.

C & N Upgrades Negro Employees

The FEPC has been notified by the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad that Negro car cleaners are being promoted to positions as carmen's helpers and that Negro dining car waiters have been employed as dining car stewards. The C & N was one of the railroads involved in hearings held by FEPC in Washington, D. C., September 15-18, 1943. Complaints examined then involved the alleged refusal of the company to consider Negro car cleaners for upgrading, because of race.

African Jungle Fighters Best

The native soldiers of the Royal West African Frontier Force, now in action on the Burma front where they are scoring daily successes against the Japanese, are, according to the British Information Service, the finest jungle fighters in the world. According to British communique, these West African troops continued their advances in the Kaladen valley on the Burma front by attacking Apaukwa, south of Kyauktaw, on March 2, and captured a majority of the enemy positions.

Randolph Wins Clendenin Award

A. Philip Randolph, president of the BSCP, has won the Clendenin Award of the Workers Defense League for distinguished service to labors' rights.

Even With His Degree

By Morton Fineman

The story of a playground instructor whose democratic enthusiasm is doused by an insolent youth and a reactionary board of directors

MR. KIRBY was so delighted with the crisp, clear warmness of the summer morning that he decided to get off the trolley at once and walk the remaining six blocks to the playground where he was working for the summer as an instructor. He closed the book he was reading and walked to the front of the trolley, smiling peacefully. When he got off, he lit his pipe and began to walk leisurely.

He was a young man with a smooth-muscled swimmer's body. Mr. Kirby had been on the swimming team at college, and he still managed to get into a pool once a day. The mild wind flattened the white sharkskin polo shirt he wore against his dark brown skin, and the muscles of his back rolled slightly as he walked.

Today he was going to be in charge of softball. At the playground he went straight to his locker and changed into an old pair of chino trousers, a cotton sweatshirt and rubber soled shoes. He put the light chain with the whistle fastened to it about his neck; then went out to the baseball field where a group of boys were batting fungoes in the bright sunshine.

Two Negro boys were standing on the sideline watching. Each of the three boys who was waiting his turn at the plate held a bat, leaving none lying in the rack for anyone else to use. Mr. Kirby noticed all this in a short, quick inclusive glance. A thoughtful expression grew in his eyes. He called the three boys, looking soberly at them.

"You're not obeying the rules," he said. "You are only supposed to have one bat to a group of boys. We have to give everybody a chance to use the equipment." He smiled at them. "So you place those bats back in the rack where they belong and we'll get a game started up, all right?" His voice rose in a deliberately cheerful lilt. He stepped away from the boys confidently and blew a short blast on the whistle suspended about his neck.

The boys came in from the field slowly. He saw that they were all white, and smiled inwardly. He remembered how, during the first few days, this knowledge had shaken his assurance, making it hard to realize that he had a degree in education, and sent all kinds of alarming thoughts through his mind.

"Well, boys," Mr. Kirby called out when they all stood before him in a loose semi-circle. "Everybody ready for a good fast game?"

Several of the boys started to grin. They were boys whose names Mr. Kirby knew. He saw that there were several strange boys in the group who apparently knew each other. They stared at each other and then at him.

"All right," Mr. Kirby said, not looking at the new boys, "Jake and Lew choose sides."

The two boys stepped out of the group, and Mr. Kirby took the bat from the boy who'd been hitting the fungoes. "Jake," he said, "you catch it." He tossed the bat in air several inches and Jake caught it by the handle. Then they palmed the bat, taking turns, and Jake won the initial choice.

"All set," Mr. Kirby asked the boys. He saw the supervisor of the playground, Mr. Mallinger, on his usual morning tour, stop to watch a nearby volleyball game. Mr. Mallinger waved good-morning, and he waved back. "How many on a team?" Mr. Kirby inquired.

"Six," Jake said. "A couple of the guys didn't come around today."

"We have to have at least seven on a team," Mr. Kirby declared, looking musingly at the boys. "I'll tell you what," he continued, "suppose we ask those two boys to play," moving his arm out toward the Negro boys who were now standing on one of the baselines, wondering whether to join the group.

"It's okay with me, Mr. Kirby," Jake said promptly.

"How about you?" Mr. Kirby asked Lew.

"Sure," Lew said.

Mr. Kirby called out: "You two boys want to get into the game?"

The boys smiled and came forward eagerly, and Mr. Kirby tried not to show his pleasure at the way Lew and Jake had acted.

"That's fine," he said heartily. He assigned each boy to a team. Then he saw one of the boys walking away. "Where are you going?" he called. It was one of the new boys.

"I'm leaving." The boy stood still, surveying Mr. Kirby.

"You're a new member, aren't you?"

The boy had his hands on his hips; his head was back and tilted slightly. "Yeah," he said.

"What's the matter?" Mr. Kirby asked. "Don't you want to be in the game?"

"No."

"Thats your privilege. You can do whatever you like around here." Mr. Kirby's voice sounded easy and authoritative.

"You're damn right I can," the boy said slowly.

Mr. Kirby turned around quickly and approached the boy. "Now look, young man," he said quietly, "we don't allow swearing in this place."

The boy did not move; but a slow grin appeared on his face as he stared at the instructor. Finally he said, "Well, ain't you a fancy nigger."

A sudden, choking anger flowed into Mr. Kirby's chest. For an apalling, uncontrolled second he wanted to hit the boy. He saw Mr. Mallinger watching everything. The supervisor's unobtrusive and calming presence restored his poise. "I'm going to suspend your privileges for a week," he told the boy. "Give me your membership card."

The boy took out his card slowly and handed it to Mr. Kirby.

"Now you can leave," Mr. Kirby said coldly. "You can get your card back next week at the office." He watched the boy walk to the gate and stop there.

"You nigger . . . ," the boy yelled out suddenly and started to run.

The words floated clearly across the yard and Mr. Kirby winced as if he had been struck sharply and suddenly in the chest. As he turned to the boys who were watching him intently, he saw Mr. Mallinger looking in his direction with a peculiar, thoughtful stare.

"Can you get another boy to play?" Mr. Kirby asked Jake and Lew.

"I think so, Mr. Kirby," Lew said quickly.

When the game had been in progress several innings, one of the other instructors came over to tell Mr. Kirby that the supervisor wanted to talk with him. Mr. Kirby let the other man take charge and walked across the yard to Mr. Mallinger's office. He had recovered completely from the incident before the game, and felt again as he had this morning, walking to the playground.

It was after ten by now, and the playground was filling rapidly with boys. Their shouts rang through the sunny air. All of them were cheerfully and strenuously engaged. It was wonderful to see them Mr. Kirby thought to himself. If we could keep them this way, occupied, competitive, in the sun, until they grew up . . . then give them all a chance, Mr. Kirby mused, his thoughts running slow and far. He felt proud of his knowledge and ability to teach them as he stepped into Mr. Mallinger's office.

Mr. Mallinger was a heavy, grey-haired man with large weary eyes, and a big- loose-skinned face. The wooden chair on which he sat was much too small for his bulk, and looked as if it would teeter over at any moment.

"Hello, Dave," he said to Mr. Kirby. "Find a chair and sit down."

Mr. Kirby grinned and moved one of the chairs against the wall close to the supervisor's desk. He took out his pipe, lit it, and waited.

The supervisor was staring through the window at the sunny spaces of the playground. He swung around suddenly and regarded Mr. Kirby intensely. "What the hell are you grinning about?" he asked the instructor.

"Why not?" Mr. Kirby murmured evenly. "A beautiful day; the kids are out there having a good time. A man who is doing a little social good has a right to grin."

Mr. Mallinger turned back to look out the window again. Jesus, he thought bitterly, this is going to be a nice thing. He touched his dry lips with the tip of his tongue. Kirby was one of the best swimmers he'd ever coached at school, he thought; a nice guy . . . He faced the instructor.

"What's the matter?" Mr. Kirby said lightly. "Administration troubles?" He crossed his legs and slid down a little on the chair.

The supervisor grimaced. "Listen, Dave," he declared, "they're starting a new policy."

"Yes?" Mr. Kirby asked.

"Stop horsing around; the Board, damn it."

"All right," Mr. Kirby said gently. "The Board is starting a new policy."

Mr. Mallinger leaned forward, his big face low, his eyes harassed, and said, "How would you like to take charge of all the Negro kids? Supervise all their games, arrange the athletic programs for them? Kind of keep them occupied together. . . ." Mr. Mallinger broke off his little speech abruptly and straightened his back as he waited for the instructor to reply.

"What the hell are you talking about?" Mr. Kirby uncrossed his legs and sat up in his chair.

The supervisor stared at the backs of his hands for a time, then looked at Mr. Kirby. "Damn it, man," he stated heavily. "I told you, the Board is starting a new policy. Some of them wanted to throw the colored kids out entirely. The place is privately endowed; they can do whatever they please." He was silent and he felt Mr. Kirby's silence deeply and clearly. When it continued, growing too deep and clear to bear, Mr. Mallinger broke it off.

Mr. Kirby stood up, and the supervisor watched him closely. "A fine thing," Mr. Kirby said. He walked to the window and looked out. Across the playground, he could see the softball game from which he'd been summoned in progress. One of the Negro kids was at bat. He saw the boy swing twice and miss; the white kid on third dancing desperately about the base; the team-mates hanging grimly on their faith in the batter's ability to get the man on base home, somehow . . . to get home somehow . . . the words hung on the edge of Mr. Kirby's mind. Mallinger was right . . . the stupid, frightened louts. He felt sorry for Mallinger because he'd been forced to ask him a thing like this. He saw the batter swing again and he saw the ball racing down between the bases, hopping a little, a solid base hit, as clean and as well earned as anything could be. He watched the speed of the ball and the hard efforts to halt its passage. He smiled at the exultant faces and heard the shouts in his mind.

"It's a lousy thing to ask you," he heard Mallinger's voice saying. "I would rather *you* did it than anybody else."

The Negro boy had arrived on second, panting, his hands on his hips, grinning happily. Even from where he watched Mr. Kirby could see the sun shining on the dark, sweat-covered face; the tough thin body and its precious coordination of muscle and nerve, triumphant at last, safe at last on second base, under the sun.

"A kid out there just got a beautiful base hit,' he said.

"Will you do it?" Mallinger repeated. His voice had grown quiet. "They made up their minds; we can't do anything else."

Mr. Kirby drew back his shoulders. The kid on second was hopping about enthusiastically, trying to rattle the pitcher.

"It's their idea of a compromise," Mallinger continued.

Mr. Kirby looked at the kid on second base. He hadn't compromised, he thought. Everything, his heart, his young muscles, all the breath in him had taken that final swing; made that last straining attempt to keep the other's faith in him unsullied. Mr. Kirby turned around and looked directly at the supervisor. "They can go to hell," he said; his voice was low and dry. "I don't have to compromise with them."

Mr. Mallinger stood up and tried to get the other man eased back in his chair, but he stood resisting. Finally, the supervisor walked back to his desk, a dour expression on his face.

"What makes the stupid louts think the kids are going to stay in one part of the grounds?" Mr. Kirby asked. His voice sounded harshly amused.

"The hell with it, Dave," the supervisor said. "Don't talk about it any more. I'll try to get somebody else."

Mr. Kirby emptied the ashes of his pipe and put it in his pocket.

"You can forget about it, Dave, and stay on the job you've got," Mallinger told him.

Mr. Kirby grinned. "I'm through. Around here, I'm done. No matter who does it, I'm through. I don't have to compromise."

"I don't want you to leave, Dave," the supervisor told him. "You're making me feel rotten."

"I'm sorry," Mr. Kirby told him.

"I should never have asked you," Mr. Mallinger murmured.

Mr. Kirby laughed. "You think I would stay around here when it happened? It's plain and simple. I don't compromise." He walked out before the supervisor answered and remembered that the membership card he'd taken from the boy was still in his pocket. He gave it to the girl at the desk in the front office. "This boy had his privileges revoked for a week," he said. "Swearing," he listed the charges, "insolence to an instructor."

"We get some lulus, dont we?" the girl said.

"We sure do," Mr. Kirby answered. Then he walked to his locker to change back into his street clothes.

CRIMSON SUNSET

This evening
The sinking sun is a pagan lover
Stabbing the sky in many places
For the sheer joy of seeing her
Bleed to death.

CYRIL CREQUE

EVEN UNTO THE END

Even unto the end I shall love you.
Not because you quench the fever of my soul,
Nor yet because you make me unaware
Of lesser things in life.
I love you for I cannot help myself.
The flame that burns within my heart for you
Was lighted from the torch of the Eternal
And it shall burn undimmed
Even unto the end.

J. B.

A CHILD'S EYES

God
In infinite mercy
Has sent young eyes,
Bright eyes,
Eager, innocent;
Twin pools of heaven's light
To stir and warm a parent's heart.
Shining eyes, confident—
Dear Lord, keep them always so.

BOOKER T. MEDFORD

THE HYPOCRITES' GAME

I slap your back,
And you slap mine;
Now we're both "Big Guys."
We shake hands and part;
Each says in his heart:
"Conceited old fool"—
And then sighs.

BOOKER T. MEDFORD

War Quiz for America

By Frank Marshall Davis

(To Be Read Aloud By Eight Voices)

LEADER: Who am I?

1ST VOICE: I am Crispus Attucks in Boston dying to give birth to America
I am Peter Salem stopping Major Pitcairn at Bunker Hill
I am John Johnson at Lake Erie, my lower limbs shot away, shouting "Fire away, my boys, no haul a color down!"
I am 109 black sailors on whom Commodore Perry staked full trust

2ND VOICE: I am Robert Smalls delivering my boat from the vest pocket of the Confederacy to the Union and Freedom
I am the Tenth Cavalry rescuing Teddy Roosevelt at San Juan Hill in Crimson Cuba
I am Needham Roberts and Henry Johnon first of the battling Yanks decorated by France for bravery under fire

3RD VOICE: I am Dorie Miller at Pearl Harbor shooting down four Jap planes with a machine gun you never let me fire before
I am that one American in ten you have always depended on when trouble batters down the front door

LEADER: Surely you remember me

CHORUS: I am Roland Hayes slugged by police on the streets of Rome, Georgia
I am four of nine Scottsboro boys still rotting in Kilby prison in Alabama
I am Cleo Wright lynched at Sikeston, Missouri, while you cried for national unity in the face of Jap savagery
I am men and women murdered by police in Detroit, chased from my shipyard jobs in Mobile, creeping back by morn to my burned and looted homes in Beaumont
I am soldiers wearing your uniform beaten and killed down south without a chance to leave the fatherland and fight for continuation of this same American way of life

1ST VOICE: I am Paul Robeson singing "Ballad for Americans" through loadspeakers of radios all over the nation

A WOMAN: I am Marian Anderson, denied the use of Constitution Hall, thrilling Washington with "The Star Spangled Banner" in the open air at the Lincoln Memorial

LEADER: You have seen me barred from the polls in ten thousand towns and have given me nothing but tissue paper words
You have seen me crowded six to a room in the covenant fenced ghettoes of Chicago and denied the right to live in homes my taxes built in Detroit

1ST VOICE: When you cried aloud for more workers I rushed to your factory doors armed with Executive Order 8802 and escorted by the Fair Employment Practice Committee but still I have been turned back by those who would rather fight me than whip the Axis

CHORUS: I am the American Negro
I send my soldier sons proudly into a jim crow army for America is the only home I know
My young die to restore freedom to oppressed people of the world for who understands better than I the hurt of the aggressor's heel ground into the face
I am he who traditionally gives you hundred percent support from fifty percent citizenship

* * *

LEADER: Are these the Four Freedoms for which we fight?
Freedom from want

VOICE: ("So sorry but we don't hire Negroes. Our white employes won't work with you. The union, you know")

LEADER: Freedom from fear

VOICE: ("Nigger, take off yo' hat and say 'sir' when you speak to a white man in Arkansas. A smart darky down here's a curiosity—and sometimes we embalm curiosities")

LEADER: Freedom of religion

VOICE: ("Of course you can't come in here! This is a white church")

LEADER: Freedom of speech
("We gits along with ouah niggers, so unless you want to leave here feet first don't be putting none of them Red social equality ideas in their minds")

* * *

LEADER: Have you heard about regimentation in Washington?
Ten men run the war
A hundred to ration black participation

* * *

1ST VOICE: Uncle Sam, Uncle Sam
Why send me against Axis foes
In the death kissed foxholes
of New Guinea and Europe
Without shielding my back
from the sniping Dixie lynchers
In the jungles of Texas and Florida?

* * *

LEADER: Down in Georgia a soldier said:

2ND VOICE: "Me? I'm from Paine County, Alabama
"Born black and I'm gonna die the same way
"Went t' school three yeahs befo' it rotted down. By the time the white folks got around t' fixing it my first wife had done died
"But you oughta see my brothah. Finished State Teachuh's College an' now he's making forty dollah uh month back home. That's ovah half uh what they pays white teachuhs
"Been helpin' Pappy work the same fifty acres fo' Mistuh Jim his own pappy had. Pappy bought a

single barrel shotgun from Mistuh Jim five yeahs ago. Paid ten dol'ahs down an' a dollah a week an' he still owes twenty mo'

"Sheriff came 'round and tol' me they wanted me in the Army. Came heah to Fort Benning an' they give me a gun and a uniform an' three good meals a day. Fust time I evah knowed a white man to give me anything

"This mawnin' I heard somebody on a radio say we was all fightin' fo' democracy

"Democracy? What's democracy?"

LEADER: Nothing is so final as a bullet through heart or head
And a correctly thrust bayonet is an unanswerable argument
For democracy against fascism
For Four Freedoms against oppression.
This you taught me in camps from Miami to Seattle
To use against Nazi, Jap
And it works;
It works in the Pacific Islands
In Africa, in Europe,
Everywhere it works
You have convinced me completely
Even as I have become expert
In killing the mad dogs
Leaping high to tear
Democracy's soft throat—
And if that's the technique
If it works in lands I never saw before
Against strangers with faces new to me
Then it must be the right thing to use
Against all foes of freedom
Against all apostles of fascism
Against some people I know
Right here in America.

VOICE: I know more about Bilbo than I do about Tojo

VOICE: I've read about Hitler but I have also lived in Georgia when Talmadge was governor

VOICE: Talk about Mussolini if you want to, but did you ever hear Rankin rave in Congress?

VOICE: To me the Black Dragon Society is just a foreign nightmare but I have been beaten and murdered by the Ku Klux Klan

LEADER: So if I'm going to clean up the Rhine—
I might as well include the Mississippi—
With the understanding
Of course
That it will be only
For democracy against fascism
For Four Freedoms against oppression—
Say, Uncle Sam,
Are you sure you want me to have a gun?

* * *

CHORUS: Do you get it, America?
If you take my brown sons to fight abroad for democracy then I have a right to expect it here
If you're going to carry the Four Freedoms all over the world you may as well start at home
If you want me to help crush fascism and oppression I want no distinction between foreign and home grown brands

LEADER: I know the g'ib guys are selling slogans
I know some top Britishers say this is a war to keep their empire intact
I know some people want to whip the Japanese for ever daring to think they are as good as whites
I know some heavy investors side with China because they'd like to keep 'em handy to exploit
I know some big shots are fighting to restore a 1930 world
I know some loudmouths rattle off sweet talk about human rights and world brotherhood and intend it as hogwash
And I know there are some who see me working and sweating and bleeding and dying and they say "You'd better you black bastard if you know what's good for you"
And it's up to the rest of us to set 'em right

CHORUS: Do you get it, America?
Do you get it, Congress?

VOICE: Say, Mister, you with the white face, are you an American?
Where did you come from and when? France, Poland, England, Russia, Spain, Italy? Oh yeah? And how do you know somebody from Senegal never got mixed up in your family?

LEADER: I know there are white Americans who want to be Americans, disciples of the square deal, lovers of the Constitution, believers in raceless justice, equality.
I've praised all 57 varieties of gods for Wendell Willkie, Henry Wallace, Pearl Buck, Eleanor and Franklin D. Give us enough guys like Phil Murray and R. J. Thomas and we'll disintegrate Father Coughlin and Gerald L. K. Smith into friendless atoms

VOICE: I know also that I have my dark Dillingers, my tinsel Tojos, my hybrid Hitlers for I have seen them loot stores in Detroit and Harlem, heard them hymn hate in Chicago's Congo, watched as they lynched opportunity in new jobs and public places, and I love them no more than you love your own pale troublemakers

CHORUS: But what of the others, the worthy ones, millions of whites, millions of blacks, the common people, the workers, the doers, born under the same flag, dreaming the same dream of liberty and security, marrying and bearing children swaddled in similar dreams?

LEADER: These common people, the strugglers, why do they duel each other? Why do they fight among themselves when there are bigger enemies? Why do they shoot and maim and kill in Mobile, Los Angeles, Beaumont when their foe bristles in Berlin, Tokyo? And why the Detroit casualty list yield none but the names of the common people?

VOICE: When white sharecropper rips the flesh of black sharecropper, who laughs and steals the shirts of both?
Who gains when white laborers bolt their union doors in the face of their black brothers in toil?
Who loosed poison arrows at the Congress of Industrial Organization for daring to recruit all workers in a raceless fraternity?
Does anybody clip bigger dividends in Wall Street when workers walk their separate ways?

CHORUS: In a democracy the people run the country!

2ND VOICE: What millionaire newspapers paint an idea Red because it would help the common people?
How much taxes go for costly sacrifices to the graven god of race prejudice?
Who walks to congress across bowed backs of the

(*Continued on page* 122)

Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

"Go-Getters" in Washington NAACP Membership Campaign

Scurlock

Volunteer workers in the 1944 membership campaign, Washington, D. C., branch, photographed at Report Meeting at YWCA, February 24, who are among the top in individual production. Reading L. to R. seated: Donald Jones, Assistant Field Secretary NAACP, and Miss Lucille Waters. Standing: L. to R., Oliver Duffin, Mrs. Belle Steele Shelton, Miss Jo Evelyn McClellan, Ralph Josey,, and John Henry Preter.

STIMSON SCORED FOR STATEMENT ON TROOPS: Pointing out that the very time the War Department was curtailing college training allegedly because it needed troops in combat, it was converting trained Negro combat units into service troops, the NAACP scored Secretary Henry L. Stimson for his letter saying Negro troops were unfit for combat service.

In the light of his statement that Negro combat units "have been unable to master efficiently the techniques of modern weapons" Stimson was asked whether the Negro infantry unit now guarding New York city was incompetent and whether other Negro units including the 92nd and 93rd Divisions are incompetent.

"We are reluctant to believe," the letter declared, "that those forces in American life which do not wish too large a number of Negroes to develop the fearlessness of the combat soldier and the combat soldier's skill in the use of firearms, are dominating the thinking and policymaking of the War Department. We call upon the War Department to reexamine the entire matter of the utilization and the organization of the Negro soldier into combat units."

ROOSEVELT ASKED TO END SEGREGATION IN ARMED FORCES: President Roosevelt, as Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy, was called upon in March to order the abolition of segregation by race and color in America's fighting forces to the end that victory may be achieved more speedily by our unified army, and the peace made more secure by the oneness of our civilian population.

The letter to the President, signed by Roy Wilkins, renewed the protest against the slurs on Negro combat troops by Secretary Henry L. Stimson in his letter to Congressman Hamilton Fish and reviewed the discouraging experiences of Negro combat troops in the first World War and in the present conflict.

"The consensus of opinion," said the letter, "is that Mr. Stimson has reflected upon Negro civilians and those in the armed forces, has offered gratuitous insult to the Negro men of a famous Chicago regiment, and has reflected upon the ability and patriotism of Negro citizens generally.

"The colored people feel this insult from a high government official all the more keenly because they are aware that over a period of years extending beyond a quarter of a century, there have been deliberate policies in

Campaign Captains, Elizabeth Branch, N. J.

Luthenaver

Front row: Mrs. C. Anthony, Joseph Anthony, Miss Marguerite Jones, Mrs. M. R. Dentley, Mrs. Nora Jones, chairman drive, Miss Evelyn E. Eason, campaign secretary, Miss Carolyn Nesbitt, last year's winner in soliciting members, Mrs. Alice Copeland, Miss M. L. Simmons, Mrs. M. R. Davis. Second row: Mrs. Thelma Fauntleroy, Mrs. Mary Gaddy, Mrs. Mary McAllister, Mrs. Elmira Byrd, Mrs. Florence Skinner, Mrs. B. M. Nesbitt, branch pres., Mrs. Bessie Petties, Mrs. Ella Thomas, and Mrs. Maggie Carter. Third row: Vernon Mitchell, Mrs. Julia Williams, Mrs. W. Benford, Isham E. Jones, Sr., Mrs. Clara Harmon, Mrs. Mildred Thompson, Mrs. Mabel E. Page, and Robert Hazel.

effect in the War Department designed to attempt to justify the statements contained in Mr. Stimson's letter to Mr. Fish.

"As you have been advised on numerous occasions, Negro Americans are most bitter about the treatment of their men in the armed forces. This is the number one complaint wherever one goes. In a resolution adopted by Negro Democrats in a meeting in Washington February 25-26, it was declared: 'We condemn without reservation the treatment, discrimination, and segregation of Negro men and women in the armed forces of the United States.'

"At a similar meeting of Negro Republican workers in Chicago, the number one recommendation adopted was 'end discrimination and segregation in the armed forces.'

"Numerous non-political organizations of Negroes have adopted identical resolutions within the past four years. Thus it cannot be said that Negro citizens are not unified in their resentment against the treatment accorded their men in the armed forces.

"Mr. Stimson avoided a direct answer to Mr. Fish's question as to why, after 21 months overseas, the famous 24th Infantry is engaged in stevedore work in the South Pacific. This is a veteran Regular army regiment of professional soldiers with a distinguished history as a combat unit. Mr. Stimson chose not to explain why these men should be engaged in unloading ships.

"Mr. Stimson's letter left unexplained the fact that the day before his letter to Mr. Fish, the War Department had announced the abandonment of college training programs on the ground that all possible combat units were needed in the field.

"In his statement that 'many of the Negro units have been unable to master efficiently the techniques of modern weapons,' Mr. Stimson apparently ignored the fact that the only Negro combat units overseas at the time of his letter consisted of a combat aviation squadron and certain anti-aircraft units. The American public, including Negroes, has been under the impression that these particular branches of the service require the ability to master completely intricate calculations and the most modern of weapons.

"Mr. Roosevelt, the shock and rage of American Negro citizens at the Stimson statements cannot be properly gauged without a review of the experiences of Negro troops in World War I. The unit to which he referred, the old 8th Illinois, made a glorious record in World War I as the 370th Infantry. Even so, they had to make this record as a part of the French Army because, according to undenied reports, their own American commanders did not want them as a part of the American Expeditionary Forces.

"We believe the record of the War Department to date demonstrates clearly that it did have a policy of sharply restricting the use of Negro ground troops as combat units. We believe it is clearly discernible that the War Department intended to channel most of the Negro soldiers into service battalions. We believe that the War Department has had a policy on the training and promotion of

Speakers at Boston NAACP Banquet

Central figures in the recent Boston NAACP annual banquet held in the New England Mutual Hall, L. to R., are Atty. Ray W. Guild, former president Boston branch, Saville R. Davis, assistant managing editor "Christian Science Monitor," Bishop Henry Knox Sherrill, Mass., Judge Francis E. Rivers of the New York City Court, feature speaker, and Julian D. Steele, president of the Boston branch and national director of the NAACP as well as director of the Armstrong-Hemingway Foundation of Boston.

Negro officers and that that policy has been to restrict their promotions as much as possible, particularly as line officers. Our beliefs, we are certain, are shared by millions of Negro Americans who have not needed any oragnizations or newspapers to tell them the story, but who have learned from the experiences of their relatives and neighbors what a bitterly contradictory dose of 'Americanism' confronts the Negro who wishes to serve his country in the war against Hitlerism.

"We have the conviction, which is shared also by millions of Negro and white Americans, that most of the difficulty stems from the basic policy that men in our armed forces must be segregated according to color.

"We call, therefore, upon you as Commander-in-Chief of our armed forces on land, sea, and in the air, to order the abolition of segregation by race and color in America's fighting forces to the end that victory may be achieved more speedily by our unified army, and the peace made more secure by the oneness of our civilian population."

IOWA HOSPITAL BARS NURSING TRAINEE: Saint Joseph's hospital, a private institution in this city, has turned down the application of Mrs. Virginia Parsons for nurses' training, apparently solely on the basis of color.

After she had met all of the requirements and the hospital found she was colored, it submitted the question of her admission to the student body which voted not to accept her.

The training of nurses for the armed forces, government health agencies and war industries is given pursuant to Public Law No. 74 (78th Congress) appropriating Federal grants to institutions providing such training. Students are paid a small monthly stipend in addition to receiving free training, board and lodging. Public Law No. 74 is administered by the United States Public Health Service and contains the following provision:

"That there shall be no discrimination in the administration of the benefits and appropriations made under the respective provisions of this Act, on account of race, creed, or color."

The Keokuk branch is considering the filing of a suit for mandamus to compel the admission of Mrs. Parsons.

SENATORS PROMISE FAIR HEARING ON FEPC BUDGET: Leading members of the Senate have promised to give fair and impartial consideration to the application of the FEPC for its $585,000 budget.

Following the introduction of an amendment to the Independent Offices bill by Senator Russell of Georgia, which he announced to the press as an attempt to "wipe out the Fair Employment Practice Committee," the NAACP wrote letters to every Senator asking his views on the continuation of the FEPC.

Senator Guy M. Gillette of Iowa writes that while he is in full accord with the principle (of prohibiting the transfer of funds appropriated for one purpose to another) "I am strongly in favor of the purpose and objectives of the FEPC."

Senator Robert M. LaFollette, Jr., of Wisconsin, writes, "if it becomes necessary for the FEPC to come to Congress for an appropriation, I would certainly be in favor of granting the appropriations sufficiently large for the committee to carry on its good work."

Senator Francis Maloney of Connecticut pledges that when the FEPC comes before the appropriations committee "it will have my careful attention and consideration." Senator Harley M. Kilgore, of West Virginia, also pledges "careful consideration."

Senator James E. Murray of Montana writes, "I do not agree with Senator Russell in his quoted purpose of destroying the Fair Employment Practice Committee."

Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg of Michigan says, "I favor a continuation of the Fair Employment Practice Committee. I agree, however, that all of these instrumentalities should be responsible to Congress for the justification of their appropriations."

Senator Robert F. Wagner of New York writes, "As you probably know, I applauded the establishment of the Committee on Fair Employment Practice and am thoroughly in accord with its objectives. To my mind, discrimination in employment because of race, color or creed makes a mockery of the ideals we are fighting to defend. You may be assured that I will not only vote for the continuance of the work of the FEPC but will do everything possible to strengthen it in the performance of its important function."

Majority Leader Alben W. Barkley pleaded that he had not had an opportunity to study the amendment of Senator Russell but declared, "my own inclination is to keep most, if not all, of these agencies in existence, including the one mentioned in your letter, and I shall certainly give earnest consideration to the recommendations and suggestions concerning it."

D.C. BRANCH GETS 7,260 MEMBERS AND $10,397.25: Securing a record total of [illegible] members the District of Columbia Branch officially closed its 1944 membership campaign with a final report-meeting Wednesday night,

March 8. In the financial column the figures also stood at a record high, $10,397.25.

It is expected that the "gleaning" period will send the membership near the 8,000 mark. However, steps have been taken to hold together in permanent organization most of the 400 workers participating in the campaign. These workers, by unanimous vote at the Wednesday meeting at which approximately 200 were present, expressed determination to push the branch membership beyond the 10,000 mark before they consider the immediate campaign closed.

Top producer in terms of memberships was Miss Lucille Waters with 276, representing $456.75. T. J. Houston, head of the Special Gifts Committee, was largest individual "money getter" with a total of $575.50 to his credit.

General Chairman of the drive was Eugene Davidson, member of the FEPC staff. Donald Jones, of the national field staff, assisted in the campaign.

NAACP Seeks 500,000 In National Campaign: Concentrating its efforts on a simultaneous campaign throughout the nation condensed into the period of May 1-June 30, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is seeking 500,000 new members.

The country has been divided into seven areas under the supervision of a national office staff member. The drive will be conducted from the New York office with Miss Ella J. Baker, national director of branches, in charge. Youth councils and college chapters of the Association will stage an advanced campaign in order to gather in members before the colleges close in May.

Branch News

Alabama: Special programs were held at the Metropolitan AME church in Mobile in February and all subsequent Sunday meetings were under the auspices of the Mobile branch.

Arizona: The membership drive of the Phoenix branch was opened in February with a mass meeting in the Shiloh Baptist church with James L. Davis, president, presiding.

California: "My Colored Neighbor and I" was the subject of an address by Dr. O. R. Warford, pastor of the First Congregational church, at a meeting of the San Diego branch in February.

The 22nd anniversary of the Race Relations council, Sacramento, was held February at the Central Methodist church with an interracial brotherhood service under the auspices of the Sacramento Council of Churches and the local NAACP.

Mrs. Amelia McBride, president of the Santa Clara branch, spoke before the social welfare committee of the citizens planning council of San Jose during Negro history week. She said that a better understanding of the history of the Negro race would help to break down discrimination and prejudice against colored people.

Connecticut: A brief history of the Negro was given during Negro history week by Mrs. Sadie Carethers at a meeting of the New Britain branch. Mrs. Carethers is a Waterbury member of the state interracial committee.

W. R. Burden, secretary of the Hartford branch, has been appointed director of the North End Service Canteen. The canteen, which will provide recreational facilities for Negro servicemen, will operate on a budget allocated by the Hartford Community Chest under auspices of the Wartime Recreation Committee.

Rev. James H. Robinson, a member of the board of directors of the NAACP and former assistant pastor of Nazarene Congregational church in Brooklyn, N. Y., was principal speaker in February at a special service held at Christ Church Cathedral in observance of interracial week in Hartford.

The Norwalk branch held a musicale in the Grace Baptist church February 17.

The Bridgeport committee of unity, freedom and friendship, broadcast a program over WICC with vice-president Irving Mitchell of the Bridgeport-Stratford branch as one of the chief speakers. Mr. Mitchell painted a graphic picture of the vital role that Negroes are playing in the battle of production in Bridgeport.

Jim Hutchinson, a slave freed by Lincoln, was signed up by David Jennett as the oldest member 110 years old, of the Bridgeport branch during its membership drive when more than 1,000 memberships were sold.

Delaware: The membership drive of the Wilmington branch was opened with Thurgood Marshall, special NAACP counsel, as special speaker. Dr. Howard D. Gregg, president of the Dover State college, spoke after attorney Marshall and encouraged membership in the organization. Last reports of the Wilmington branch membership drive for 2,000 new members being conducted under the supervision of Mrs. Robert Ming, of the national office, indicated that the campaign was moving toward a successful conclusion.

District of Columbia: With a goal of 10,000 members the Washington branch reported 1,814 members in the first four days of its campaign. The 1944 annual membership drive opened Sunday, February 13, with a mass meeting at Asbury Methodist church, which was packed with 3,000 people. There was increased interest in the meeting through the efforts of the Washington Federation of Churches which had sponsored an interracial Sunday on the Sunday nearest Lincoln's birthday. Large numbers of white people were also present.

Justice Francis E. Rivers of New York was the guest speaker, and Thurgood Marshall described the work of the legal committee. Membership reports which began at the Sunday meeting were received nightly at the YWCA. Eugene Davis was campaign chairman with organized staff of 300 workers.

Georgia: Answering a request of the Atlanta branch that Negro soldiers be allowed

Award Winners Bridgeport Campaign

Irving E. Chandler

Winners of awards in Bridgeport, Conn., campaign are (L. to R.) Albert Cannady, Mrs. Marion Stewart, Daniel Jennett, Irving Mitchell, Miss Mary H. Thornton, Rev. A. C. Bass, and Mrs. Irvena Ming, NAACP field secretary who conducted the campaign.

to vote in the democratic white primaries, Governor Arnall informed this branch that Georgia's new soldier vote law excludes Negro GI's. "Under the laws of this state," Arnall said, "and the rules of the democratic executive committee, Negroes, whether soldiers or civilians, are not permitted to participate in the white democratic primary."

ILLINOIS: A rumor that 500 publicly financed war homes authorized early in January for Negro war workers in Chicago's southwest sector might be temporary buildings brought vigorous protest from Harry J. Walker, executive secretary of the Chicago branch and chairman of the United Committee on Emergency Housing. Walker pointed out that his committee, in view of the nature of the housing situation in Chicago, would regard any program of temporary housing "as not only unfortunate, but unjustifiable and opposed to the best interests of the community."

IOWA: The Des Moines branch sponsored a program commemorating the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass at the Community center in February. Miss Madeline Joseph spoke on Lincoln; and Rev. C. L. McAllister, on Douglass.

Proceedings brought by owners of 38 properties in Chautauqua park against Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Alexander to enjoin them from owning and occupying their residential property at 2200 Chautauqua because they are Negroes were condemned by the Des Moines branch and the Des Moines interracial commission.

Mrs. Elizabeth Weldon arranged an interesting February meeting of the Keokuk branch in the Pilgrim Rest Baptist church. There were committee reviews of the improved industrial conditions for the local employment of Negroes.

KANSAS: R. J. Reynolds, president of the Topeka branch, participated in a panel discussion of "Democracy Must Find a Way."

KENTUCKY: Capt. Robert E. Skelton, U. S. Army chaplain of Camp Atterbury, Ind., was the principal speaker at an emancipation-proclamation program conducted under the auspices of the Louisville branch. Lyman Johnson, president of the Louisville branch, related the activities of his branch in seeking remedies for recent cases of racial discrimination and injustice.

MASSACHUSETTS: The executive board of the regional council of New England met in New Bedford in February and elected John S. Barreau, Mrs. Ruth Belle Dade, Miss Eleanor Williams, and C. Dudley Onley as delegates to the annual meeting in Springfield.

Justice Francis E. Rivers, of the city court of New York, was one of the speakers at the 34th annual dinner meeting of the Boston branch in the New England Mutual Hall. Racial intolerance, he said, would be a burning subject in the coming national elections because of the failure of many people to recognize intolerance as a serious problem. Saville R. Davis, assistant managing editor of the *Christian Science Monitor*, warned against violence as a solution of problems. Others present at the head table included Atty. Gen. Robert T. Bushnell, Lt. Jacob M. Gibson, USNR; Col. Thomas F. Sullivan, police commissioner; Capt. Homer R. Lewis, USA; Julius D. Warren, commissioner of education; Patrick J. Connelly, postmaster of the Boston postal district; Roy Wilkins, editor of the *Crisis* and acting secretary NAACP; Julian D. Steele, president of Boston branch and Rt. Rev. Henry Knox Sherrill and Rev. Kenneth de Phughes.

At Smith Race Relations Conference

Leaders at the Smith College race relations conference held recently at Smith College, Northampton, Mass. Left to right are Neal de Nood, associate professor of sociology & chairman of the panel discussions, Miss Diana Tead of New York City, a sophomore at Smith and chairman of the conference, Miss Hortense Powdermaker, professor of anthropology at Queens College, L. I., Roy Wilkins, acting secretary NAACP, and Clarence Chatto. There are seven colored students at Smith, five in the college and two in the graduate school.

MINNESOTA: During "Brotherhood Week" President R. J. Simmons of the Duluth branch was guest speaker at the Glen Avon Presbyterian church on the subject, "The Negro and Democracy." He was also on an interracial program at Superior, Wisconsin, on which appeared an American Indian princess, a nisei, and a Jewish attorney in a symposium on "My Share in Democracy."

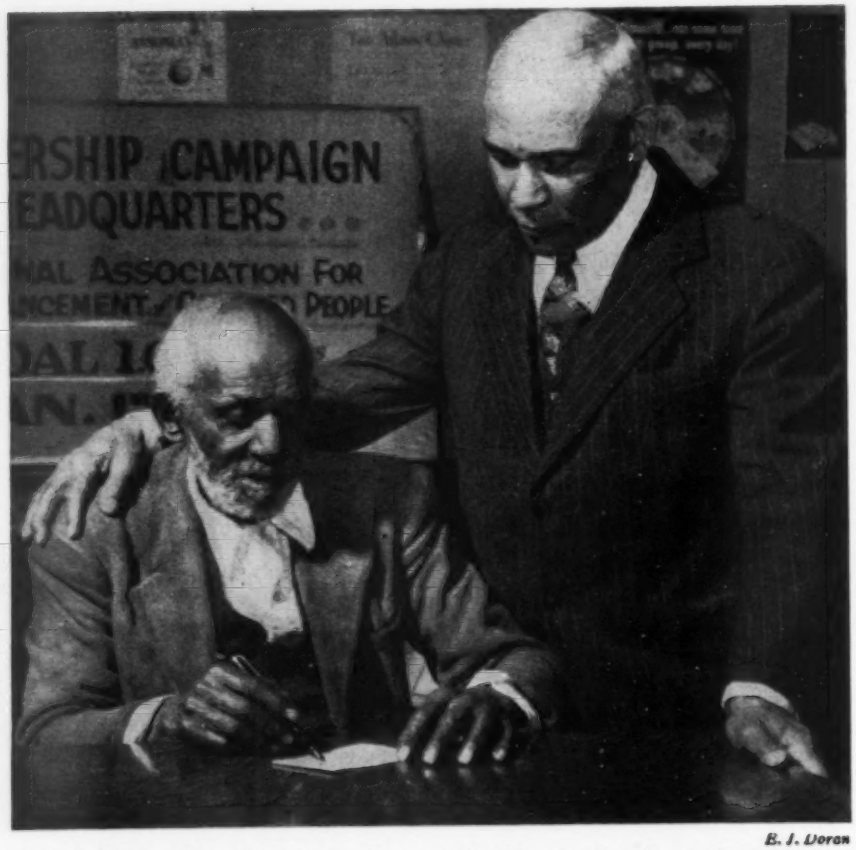
Rev. M. Boyd Patrick was guest speaker at the Saturday Luncheon Club, Chamber of Commerce. The branch held an extra meeting to hear their reports, at which time Henry Williams, publicity chairman, presented a playlet by the Misses Bell and Thomas on "Our Part in the War."

MISSOURI: A demand for investigation of the conduct of dean William E. Taylor of the Lincoln University Law School, who has been charged with dicouraging the enrollment of students in the school, was asked in a meeting sponsored by the St. Louis branch.

NEW JERSEY: At the regular January meeting of the Orange branch the following officers were installed for the year 1944: Dr. Everett B. Simmons, president; Hezekiah B. Hopkins, vice-president; Mrs. Blondine Bruce, secretary; Mrs. Mary C. Woody, treasurer; and Mrs. Julia Goode, second vice-president. The installation address was delivered by Rev. Thomas L. Puryear, pastor of the St. James AME church, Orange.

The second in a series of educational programs sponsored by the Long Branch NAACP was held in the auditorium of the Second Baptist church, Long Branch, in February. Mrs. Ethel Howard, a teacher in the Liberty Street school, gave a brief history of the organization, tracing the history of the Association from its beginnings in the Niagara Movement down to the present. Atty. Leroy Jordan of Elizabeth, N. J., a former police judge, made an address on the subject of Abraham Lincoln and his role in freeing the slaves. Whether or not our service men in this conflict will have died in vain, the speaker said, depends upon what we do on

110-Year Old NAACP Member



B. J. Doran

Jim Hutchins, resident of Bridgeport, Conn., who is 110-years old, takes out NAACP membership from Daniel Jennett (standing) solicitor.

the home front to make these United States a better place to live in.

Vernal Williams, New York attorney, addressed the Plainfield branch in February on the subject "Negro Faces in the Post-War World." Williams pointed out in his talk that this is the first time men of all races have been in a struggle together to decide if there is such a thing as a master race.

Following a rally held under the auspices of the Camden branch in the Kaighn Avenue Baptist church, bonds worth $2500 were sold. Staff Sgt. Thomas H. Ross, a Negro soldier who had served in New Caledonia made a special plea for the purchase of bonds. The rally was arranged by Edward A. Reid chairman of the county committee. On February 13 Judge Sheehan, Judge Cohen, and city prosecutor Dzick addressed a meeting of the Camden branch on "The Negro, the Law and Juvenile Delinquency."

The Paterson branch met February 23 in the Colored Men's Hall with Mrs. F. H. Curtis, president, presiding. Committees reported and Miss Clara L. Smith, secretary, also made her report.

The Elizabeth branch started its annual membership drive at a meeting held in the Siloam Presbyterian church with a goal of 1,000 members. Three prizes were awarded for those obtaining the largest number of members.

"Absenteeism and its Effect on Negro Advancement" was the theme of Rev. Gilbert Letsinger of Metuchen at the February 20 meeting of the Rahway-Cateret branch. Other speakers were Rev. Fletcher C. Fredericks, Rev. J. D. Renfro of Carteret, and Rev. Norman R. Olphin of the Second Baptist church of Elizabeth. There were vocal solos by Mrs. Louise Pippinger and Camille Connor, and a reading by Mrs. Thomas Moore.

The Trenton branch was addressed by Mrs. Jean Kempson, vice-president of the New Jersey Constitution Foundation, on the topic "Constitution Revision and the Bill of Rights."

Reports from the membership committee of the Atlantic City branch were heard at the February 21 meeting held at the branch YWCA.

NEW YORK: Dr. C. P. McClendon was installed in February as president of the New Rochelle branch. Other officers installed were John Tate, vice-president; Mrs. Laura Scantleberry, treasurer; Miss Irene Rivers, recording secretary; Mrs. Naomi Howard Galaway, corresponding secretary.

The Port Chester branch met with the Greenwich branch at the Crispus Attucks Community Center, Greenwich, February 12. A special program celebrating Negro history week featured Mrs. Ruby Hurley as speaker.

The Brooklyn branch features regular weekly forums at 474 Sumner Avenue. Two recent speakers at these forums have been George E. Wibecan, who urged that Negro men and women should utilize the mechanical skills learned in war industries to make a place for themselves in the postwar world, and Rev. J. Henry Carpenter, who discussed the economies of Scandinavia in contrast with that of the United States.

Dr. Arthur M. Williams, president of the White Plains branch, addressed the YWCA Sandwich forum February 16 on the Negro's battle against intolerance in White Plains. At the regular monthly meeting of the White Plains branch Eardlie Johns, New York City corporation counsel, was the principal speaker.

The Troy branch celebrated Negro history week with an address by Granville Hicks, noted author and critic, who outlined the Negro's gifts to American life.

Mrs. Lottie Brown was named chairman of a committee of the Troy branch to write letters to state legislators and congressmen on issues of general interest, especially those which deal with the poll tax and soldier vote issue.

NORTH CAROLINA: The membership campaign of the High Point branch was closed February 19 with an address by Miss Ella J. Baker, director of branches. Miss Baker also spoke at a meeting of the Winston-Salem branch.

The membership drive of the Raleigh branch was opened with a special educational program held in the Martin Street Baptist church in February. Mrs. N. P. Frazer, director of the campaign, announced 1,000 members as the goal of the campaign. Last year the Raleigh branch had an approximate membership of 650.

OREGON: Rev. J. J. Clow, president of the Portland branch, called meetings in February to protest segregation at the Hanford Engineering works, which he said had provided separate buses for white and Negro workers and had declined to permit Negro workers to occupy the same dormitory buildings with white employes.

PENNSYLVANIA: Leon Prout, membership chairman, reported that the membership drive of the Greater Coatesville branch had resulted in a total enrollment of 136.

SOUTH CAROLINA: J. M. Hinson, president of the state division of the NAACP, which backed a Charleston school teacher in a salary equalization suit settled in her favor, has announced that similar suits are being prepared for the Columbia, S. C., area.

TENNESSEE: The Nashville branch sponsored a mass meeting February 25 at the Fisk Memorial Chapel with Judge William Hastie as guest speaker.

The Chattanooga branch closed its membership drive in February with 2,710 members. This branch also helped to sponsor, with aid of the Colored Ministers Interdenominational Alliance, a concert of the Southernnaires February 20.

At the February 29 meeting of the Johnson City branch held in the St. Paul AME Zion church branch members listened to an address by N. W. Griffin, assistant field secretary of the NAACP.

TEXAS: The Port Arthur branch met February 16 in the ILA Hall for the purpose of paying assessments.

The Wichita Falls branch sponsored a special interracial mass meeting at the Gilbert Memorial CME church February 20. J. H. Smith of Fort Worth was the principal speaker and talks were also made by prominent white leaders.

VIRGINIA: The Newport News branch gets out a very interesting folder called *The Home Front*, "published every now and then." Aim of the folder is "to help the NAACP in its struggle for full emancipation for the American Negro." William R. Walker, Jr., is president of this branch, Mrs. Dorothy Roles Watkins, membership secretary, and J. Rupert Picott, editor of *The Home Front*.

WASHINGTON: Negro leaders from Spokane, Seattle, Portland, Tacoma, and Bremerton met in Seattle in February at the 22nd Avenue YWCA to take steps against establishment of segregation in Washington. Prime movers in the meeting were three Spokane officials of the NAACP, F. A. Stokes, J. W. Strong, and Rev. Emmett B. Reed.

Segregation of races on government-owned workers' buses operating between Pasco and the nearby Hanford Engineering Project was protested by Negro delegates to a special session of the Northwest division of the NAACP.

WEST VIRGINIA: The Fairmont branch held a temporary organizational meeting February 10 in the K of P Hall. Plans were made to conduct a membership drive and to perfect permanent organization of a branch in Fairmont. Temporary officers elected were A. A. Maxwell, chairman; N. F. Barbour, secretary; and Rev. C. M. F. Wiley, treasurer.

WISCONSIN: "The Negro in the Post-War World" was the subject of a discussion by George S. Schuyler, associate editor of the Pittsburgh *Courier* and business manager of the *Crisis*, sponsored by the Madison branch.

Youth Council News

BOSTON, MASS.: A radio broadcast in observance of the 35th anniversary of the NAACP was given on February 27, 1944, over station WORL. The program opened with a contralto solo, "Christ in Flanders," by Miss Joenelle Bryant, accompanied by Mrs. Bella Hinton. Mr. James Buck, spoke on the subject, "The NAACP, Spearhead of Democracy," and stated among other things, "In pushing demands to end the racial discrimination which mars our democracy, we are doing our patriotic duty to make America stronger at home and a source of confidence and inspiration to liberty loving peoples abroad." Miss Bryant closed the program by singing, Franc's "Dedication." Miss Phyllis Mitchell is president of the youth council; and Mr. William Harrison, its adviser.

MONTCLAIR, N. J.: Council members enjoyed an informal spaghetti supper at the meeting on February 13. In commemoration of national Negro history week, tribute was paid to the many Negroes of the past who have made contributions to our life, and in observance of the 35th anniversary of the NAACP honor was given those who are working for future advancement.

FLORENCE, S. C.: In observance of national Negro history week, the youth council presented a program at Cumberland Methodist church on February 13. Miss Annie Lee Nelson recited "O Black and Unknown Bards" and Miss Ethel Richardson introduced the guest speaker, Rev. L. M. Tobin. Music was furnished by the Wilson High school choral club under the direction of Mr. W. H. C. Bowen and accompanied by Mrs. J. L. Brooks. Portraits of Booker T. Washington and George Washington Carver were presented to the Wilson High school at an assembly program on February 16, by the youth council through its secretary Mr. Isiah Wines. Mr. Willie Echols is council president.

BALTIMORE, MD.: Approximately fifty representatives from youth council units and the Morgan College chapter met with the youth secretary at the Union Baptist church on February 28, 1944. Plans were made for the organization of several units on the basis of a multiple council system. A goal of 2,000 youth members was set under the direction of Mrs. Virginia J. Kiah, membership secretary of the Baltimore branch.

WASHINGTON, D. C.: Nominees for the presidency of the youth council, in an effort to make the community political-conscious, announced their platforms at a series of public meetings. Mr. Earl J. Amadee, the Labor Party candidate won the election over Mr. W. Astor Kirk who represented the Reformers party.

HOWARD UNIVERSITY: The college chapter played host to the D. C. youth council at Frazier Hall on February 29 when the youth secretary spoke to the group. The importance of strong youth councils and college chapters and ways and means of stimulating interest on the college campus were subjects discussed.

CHATTANOOGA, TENN.: Eight hundred and twenty-four youth members were enrolled in the Youth Council of the NAACP in Chattanooga, Tennessee in February. This gives Chattanooga the distinction of having the largest youth council in the country. This very fine total was reached by the cooperation of seven schools in Chattanooga, each of which conducted a campaign in the school for youth members. The schools and members secured are Howard High School, 250; Second District Junior High School, 150; Orchard Knob, 114; Calvin Donaldson, 95; Booker T. Washington High School, 87; East Fifth Street Junior High School, 75; East Fifth Street elementary School, 53.

These councils will be combined in a city-county youth council, which will include young people in the city who are not attending schools. A long range program is being planned by the sponsoring committee to give impetus and permanency to the movement in Chattanooga.

The Youth Council campaign was conducted along with the senior branch campaign under the direction of Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin, field secretary. The Chattanooga branch has now three thousand members under the leadership of Dr. P. A. Stephens, president; H. E. White, vice-president; W. O. Bryson, secretary; and Dr. N. B. Callier, treasurer.

Negro Crews to Man Anti-Submarine Vessels

Two new U. S. naval anti-submarine vessels will be manned predominantly by Negro crews, the Navy Department has announced. A destroyer escort under construction at the U. S. Navy yard, Boston, Mass., will have initially an enlisted crew of 160 Negroes and 44 whites. The white ratings will be limited to billets requiring specialized training or experience not yet had by Negroes. It is anticipated that as soon as Negroes qualify, they will replace the white enlisted members so that the entire crew eventually will be Negroes.

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Book Reviews

RACE AND RIOTING

***The Race Question and the Negro:* A Study of the Catholic Doctrine on Interracial Justice. By John LaFarge, S. J. New York: Longmans, Green and Co., 1943. XVI +315pp. $2.50.**

***Race Riot.* By Alfred McClung Lee & Norman Daymond Humphrey. New York: The Dryden Press, Inc., 1943. XI+143pp. $1.50.**

Father LaFarge's volume covers the ground conventionally surveyed in volumes on "the problem." There are chapters on race, racial differences, the Negro migrant in war time, human rights, race prejudice, social equality, and so on. The material is not new but the treatment is often refreshing in its bold facing of issues. Chapter XIX, "Foibles and Fallacies," frankly faces and answers some of the silly statements made when men of goodwill advocate equality for the Negro. "Negroes are so much happier by themselves," it is often said. "Quite possibly," answers Father LaFarge, and so, sometimes, are "Catholics or Lutherans or Jews or Finns," but none of "us like to be *forced* to associate, willy nilly, by people who object to our presence." "Educated Negroes are frustrated and unhappy and can only moan: 'My people! My people!' Therefore, education has been wasted upon them." the answer: "One finds such in the case of all people, not only the Negro alone."

Father LaFarge, the son of the well-known painter and author John LaFarge, is associate editor of the Catholic magazine *America*, and his approach to the race question is from the Catholic position.

Race Riot is a hard hitting journalistic report on the causes of race riots with a day-by-day explanation of what really happened at Detroit. Dr. Lee and Dr. Humphrey are professors of sociology at Wayne University, Detroit, and were eye-witnesses of the Detroit riots. What are the causes of riots? They are, as our authors make clear, "the end-products of thousands of little irritants in an atmosphere of growing tension." "When the two races are not *consciously preparing themselves* to live democratically, frictions occur in overcrowded streetcars, parks, swimming pools, motion picture houses, restaurants, and the like. Riots are nearer when easy catchwords are used to sum up attitudes toward the other race and as explanations for irritating incidents. . . . Take such events and catch phrases and then think of people with patience frayed by the fatigue of war-prolonged work-weeks and by the snapping of war-strained nerves and tempers." This tension which grips both races needs only the fuse of a "single spectacular event" to unleash the torrent of a racial clash.

In Part III of their little book our authors give suggestions for preventing future riots and other suggestions for changing basic anti-Negro and anti-white patterns.

JAMES W. IVY

NEGRO ART

***Modern Negro Art.* By James A. Porter. New York: The Dryden Press, 1943. 200 pp. with 85 halftone illustrations. $3.25.**

It is at the same time a stimulating and instructive experience which awaits the reader of James A. Porter's book on modern Negro art. This scholarly book, based upon careful research, represents a fine contribution to the rather meagre knowledge we have of the artistic contribution the Negro has made to American culture.

The author reaches rather far back in his explanation on Modern Negro Art and starts his book with a chapter on the "Negro Craftsmen and Artists of Pre-Civil War Days." Through well and carefully chosen citations the author introduces the reader in an authentic way into the basic social conditions out of which the first Negro artists grew. Through advertisements in newspapers we learn in a very interesting way of the first artistic attempts during slave days. The influence of the abolition of slavery on artistic development is treated in another chapter. The note that "The same European tradition that served this early group of white American painters (The Hudson River School) supported some of the first Negro painters" is a very significant fact which shows why Negro art at that time moved along the same lines as the white's art. If there is a weak spot in this book then it is the avoidance of a psychological argumenta-

War Quiz for America

(*Continued from page* 114)

quarreling masses?

3RD VOICE: Who sold scrap iron to Italy to dump on Ethiopia, oil to the Japs to wing war planes over China?
How much did "U. S. Steel Corporation" get on shrapnel extracted from Corporal Berowitz at Guadalcanal?

CHORUS: In a democracy the people run the country!

LEADER: Ideas slip together and a pattern forms Hitler wrote!

VOICE: "America is a pushover. Get the races fighting among themselves and I can step in any old time"

LEADER: And Standard Oil in Texas gave pamphlets to white workers saying to join the CIO would mean social equality
And Hirohito sent work to black men:

2ND VOICE: "Japan is the champion of all colored people. Stand ready to rebel"

LEADER: And a vice president at Packard got white labor to strike when Negroes were upgraded on assembly lines
Who snipped this pattern? The common people.

CHORUS: In a democracy the people run the country!

LEADER: That's it!
In a democracy the people run the country!
Say, Mister, you with the white face, you toiler
Come over here and let's talk.
Maybe we both got the same disease
But different symptoms;
Mine pops out in humiliating race discrimination
Yours is a rash of class distinction and poverty coming from the same infection!
Fascism and profit grabbing
And we're both tired steppers to a dollar jazz

CHORUS: In a democracy the people run the country!

LEADER: Who says we can't get along!
We are the people
We are the black workers and the white workers and all the workers
We are the marching sweating fighting people
We are the builders of America
We are the keepers of America
We are the breathing facts of democracy
We are the people
And in a democracy the people run the country

CHORUS: Shout a factory fresh slogan, streamlined and strong:
"A people's peace in America to win a people's war"

LEADER: Shout it in the cabins and cottonfields down south
Shout it in the tenements and business plants up north
"A people's peace in America to win a people's war"

CHORUS: Shout it in Harlem and Hollywood
"A people's peace to win a people's war"
How about it, America?

tion on the question of inherent attributes of Negro art. By that I do not mean the effect of skin color or mere race attributes on the artistic expression but the social conditions, including the minority status, which have their definite influences on the reactions and the whole rhythm of life of the Negro. Not enough has been said on the reflection of this vital question on the artistic development of the American Negro. It would have been interesting to find in this book a careful analysis of this problem. This should by no means weaken the importance of this book as an excellent source and presentation of important material.

The author continues with a historical interpretation of the art development of the American Negro in the chapter "Transition to Freedom" in which we find interesting descriptions of characters like Bannister and Edmonia Lewis.

Almost the whole fourth chapter of the book, called "Fourth Generation," is dedicated to the artist-personality Henry O. Tanner. In the reviewer's opinion the significance of this painter for modern Negro art as stressed by the author is somewhat exaggerated and misleading.

After an excellent historical introduction in the chapter "At the Turn of the Century," in which the author writes about the difficulties the Negro artist faces in his cultural advancements, Professor Porter compares Negro music and painting. "If Negro music had only a small audience in its beginning, Negro pictorial art was still more lonely." His important statement that "The painter and sculptor then were not aware of the folk heritage of the Negro" lacks the explanation of the "why." "The Negro at that time needed encouragement in his own creative power" but "primitive art has enjoyed no vogue as yet in this country," says Mr. Porter; so "The strongest single influence on the Negro artist in the first decade of this century remained the academic tradition perpetuated by the schools."

"The New Negro Movement" which shows inself in the dynamic relationship between the people and their leaders, set up through racial or intellectual pride" is the headline of the sixth chapter. Then follows an excellent discussion of the cultural, intellectual and social framework which determined the background of the Negro artist of the period following the first world war. Very well chosen quotations of Negro writers, artists, and critics throw much light and life on this masterly-discussed period.

The last three chapters deal with the new trends in painting, sculpture and the graphic arts. As in every contemporary discussion concerning evaluations, our author has many value judgments which are very subjective; and it would have been better if he had omitted in a scientific work such journalisms as "There is also a variety of posture, gesture, facial expression and grouping that builds up the psychological motive," or "the dramatic tension of the whole"; or "Emotion suffuses this little canvas by virtue of the phosphorescent color and the crescendo of forms lifting easily from the ground upward." The reviewer merely thinks that art works do not need "descriptions" which merely are poor repetitions in words of what the artist wants to say in his own medium. It would be different if it were a case of careful analysis. By no means do we do justice to artist personalities like Charles White by saying he paints "both landscape and figure very well, though his preference is for the mural."

In spite of these weaknesses in his last chapters, the book contains a wealth of material and is in itself a very valuable contribution to the literature on art.

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Race: An American Dilemma

(Continued from page 106)

untenable. If in the future a Negro stands before a microphone, as a southern Negro did recently, and tells millions of white Americans that Negroes do not want social equality, he will know that he is not representing the attitude of Negroes and that it is useless to engage in the old game of fooling white people.

In summing up the review of this book, I can find no better words than that it should be read by every intelligent American; but whether white Americans choose to read it or not, every intelligent Negro should read it for here he will find a scientific Charter of his right to full participation in American democracy.

Please Dear God

A SOLDIER, whispers above the roar
Of cannon fire, smoke and gore
Above the blast that rips the sod,
"I must not miss! Please, dear God!
A WOMAN, looks across the miles
Weary . . . aching . . . all the while
Looks over piston, lay and rod
To humbly entreat,
"Please, Dear God!"

A WEARY WORLD,
In every tongue . . .
Vexed with the tune that Ares has sung,—
Sends up a prayer on trited knees;
A Prayer for all eternity:
"This sundered EARTH on which we trod,
A Psalm of Peace!
PLEASE, OUR GOD!"

RHOZA A. WALKER

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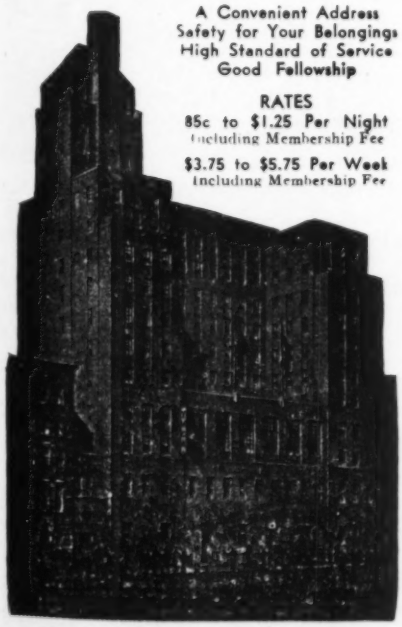

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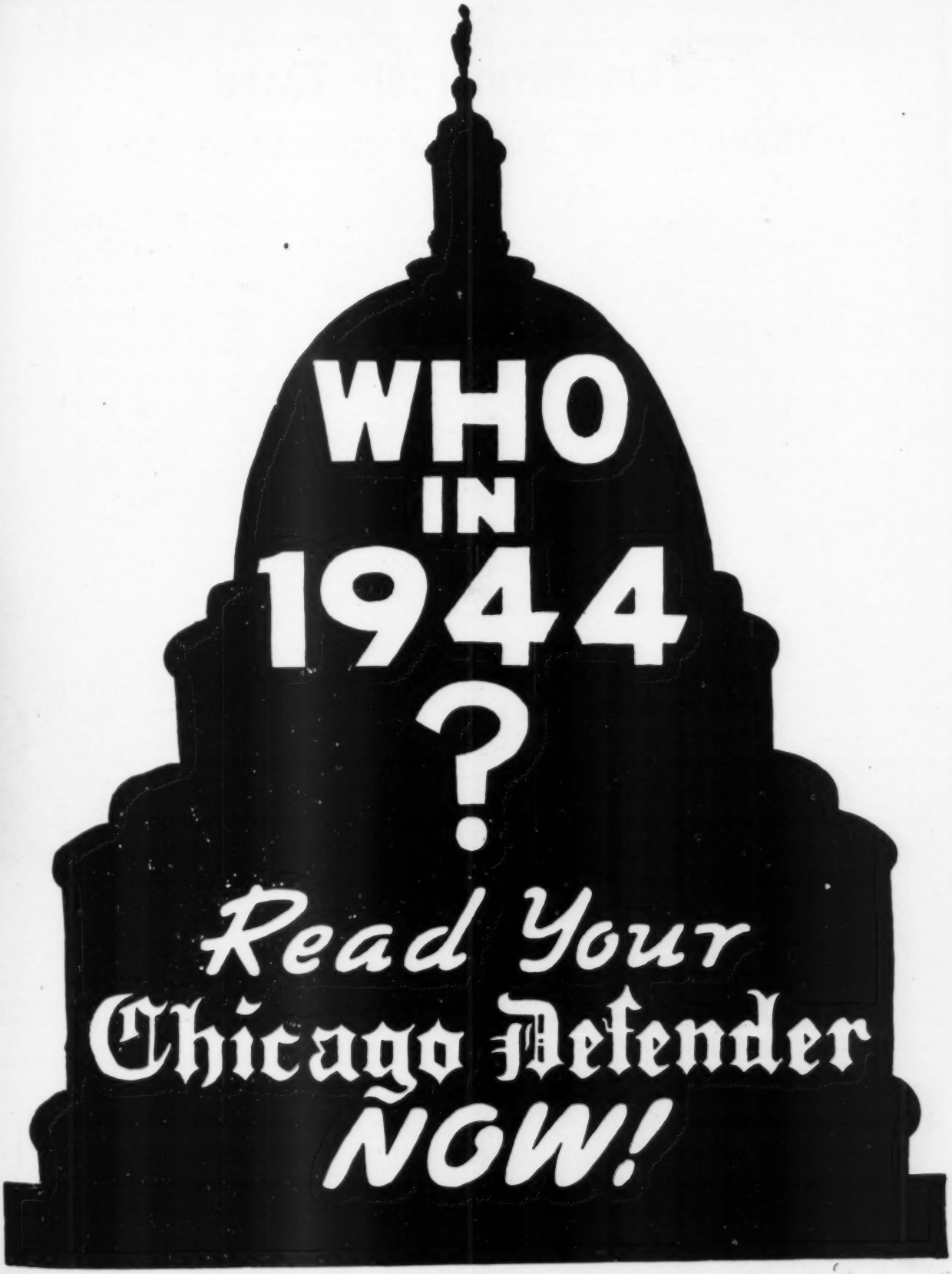
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